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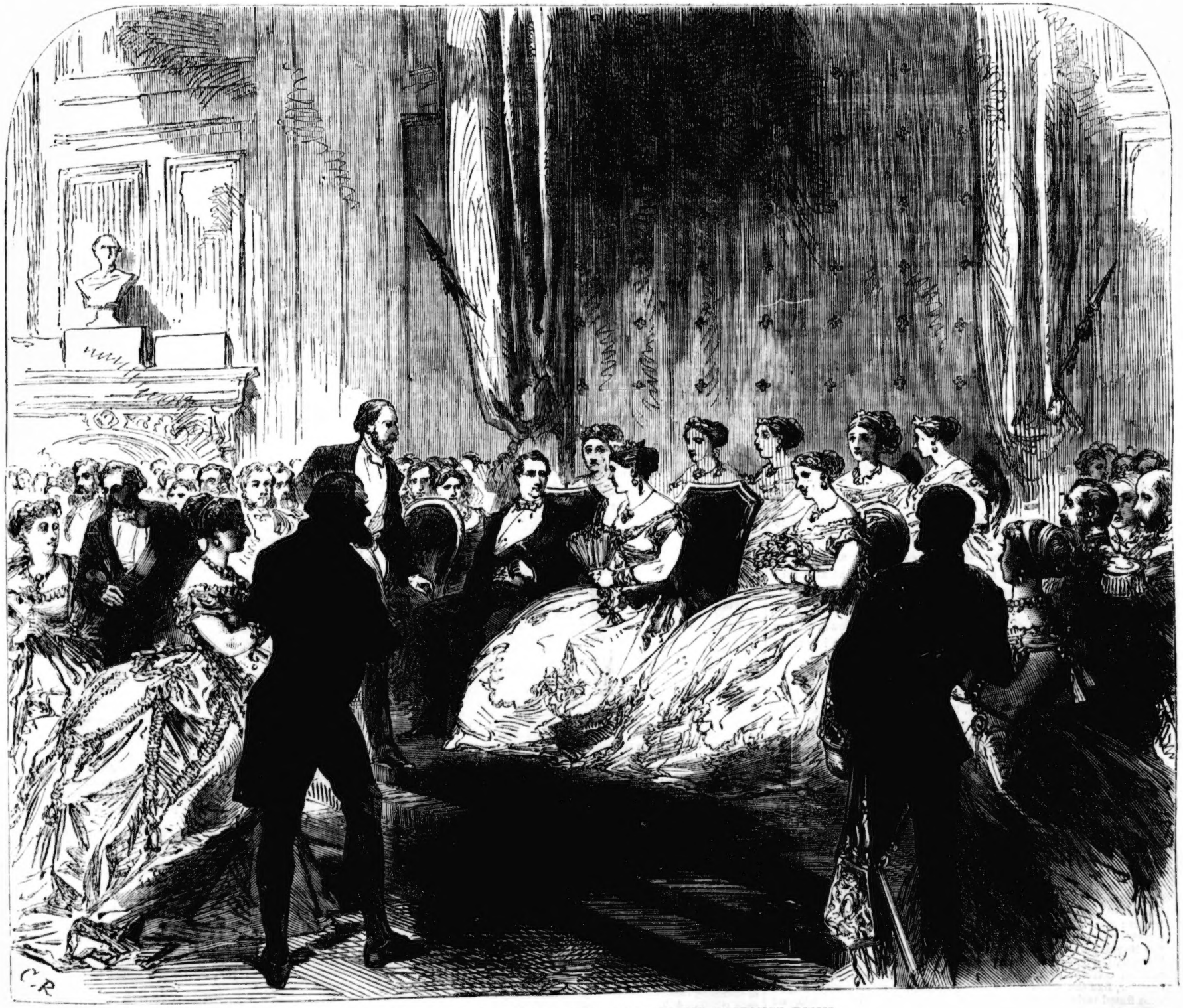
DISTRESS IN THE EAST OF LONDON.

THE state of affairs in the east end of London is pregnant with matter for grave consideration and anxiety. Distress, consequent on want of employment, is widespread in that region. Thousands of workmen and their families are workless, wageless, and foodless, save for the parish dole and the aid afforded by private benevolence. Every one who is better off than those poor East Londoners must feel for and be anxious to aid in relieving the suffering that prevails. But here arises the source of misgiving. Private benevolence, privately administered, is likely to create a greater evil than it is meant to cure. The genuine distress in the district is necessarily temporary, and will disappear either by the revival of industrial activity, or by the migration of the workmen to more favoured places. But the pauperised spirit and general demoralisation induced by indiscriminate almsgiving will be eternal. Thanks to the kindness—perhaps Sir Robert Carden would be inclined to say the foolishness—of the British public, money to relieve distress is always

easily obtained. Hence, whenever a pinch occurs, a crowd of fussy people put themselves forward as public almoners, solicit subscriptions, and often distribute the funds obtained neither with wisdom nor discrimination. They are, moreover, almost unavoidably, liable to be imposed upon. Where half a dozen or more independent agencies are at work distributing alms in a large district, all cannot inquire sufficiently into each claim that is advanced; and so the unworthy, but importunate, habitual pauper obtains and misuses what was meant for the deserving and reticent. That, we fear, is exactly what is now going on in the east of London. Women have been heard to complain, while sipping their "drop o' gin" at a public-house bar, that they had only succeeded in obtaining from thirteen to seventeen relief tickets in a day. In fact, there are too many cooks at work; and the result is that the broth is in danger of being spoilt. Money is squandered upon the unworthy, while the deserving starve; the spirit of the people is being pauperised; and the distress that is now only temporary is in danger of be-

coming chronic. All the relief committees and other agencies should be consolidated into one body, their efforts should be directed from one central point of authority, sub-committees or distributors should be allocated to convenient-sized districts, no funds should be intrusted to any save the recognised authorities, and no case should be relieved till the circumstances and character of the applicants have been thoroughly inquired into. Were this done, on something like the system adopted in Lancashire during the cotton-famine, genuine distress would be quickly relieved, impostors would be detected, much real good would be effected, and the danger of inducing habits of idleness and chronic pauperism would be averted.

The local poor-law authorities, it is alleged, are not doing their duty in the existing emergency. The relief they afford is utterly inadequate, and every possible obstacle is, it is said, put in the way of sufferers obtaining the pittance offered. All this is very likely, for local poor-law officials rarely do fulfil their functions in a liberal or in other than a grudging



THE ROYAL VISIT TO LIVERPOOL: GRAND BALL IN THE EXCHANGE ROOMS.

spirit. But it is easy to understand the conduct of the East-end guardians and vestries. In the first place, the ratepayers of the district are themselves poor—little better, many of them, than paupers; and it is no easy matter to screw funds out of their needy hands; hence the anxiety of the local poor-law authorities to keep down the rates. And in the next place, it is not surprising that ratepayers, vestries, and guardians should be desirous of shirking duty which plenty of other people seem ready enough to undertake for them. They know as well as the idle loafers of all London that there is "a good deal of relief" going on in Poplar, Mile-end, Bethnal-green, and the neighbourhood. They know, moreover, that the idle and loafing classes everywhere will be attracted, and, in fact, are now being attracted, to the East-End by the prospect of obtaining relief on easy terms from existing committees and private almoners; and the guardians are, not unnaturally, afraid of a permanent burden of pauperism, not their own, being saddled upon them.

If, however, a more methodical system of administration were inaugurated, these fears would be obviated; the supineness of the local authorities might be overcome; all parties might be induced to do their duty promptly if not cheerfully; the funds at the disposal of the guardians and the subscriptions of private individuals might be made to work the one in aid of the other; and, when local and voluntary means failed, recourse might be had to a rate-in-aid or a thorough equalisation of rates over the whole metropolis. But, while the present disjointed system continues, nothing but abuses—neglect in some quarters, lavish and ill-regulated expenditure in others—can be expected. It has been pointed out that an officer of the Poor-Law Board now stationed in London—Mr. Corbett—has had experience in a similar, though much more extensive, emergency in Manchester; and it is to be hoped that his knowledge will be utilised in bringing order out of the confusion that now reigns in the east of London.

ARCHDEACON DENISON AND NATIONAL EDUCATION.

THE scheme which Archdeacon Denison propounds for meeting the educational wants of the country amounts to this—that Parliament, through the Committee of Council on Education, should subsidise every school of every denomination that can show a certain degree of preliminary effort and a certain measure of efficiency afterwards; and that the managers of such schools shall have the entire control of the teaching carried on within them. That is putting the matter very simply, but it is open to the objections that the plan will not meet the want of some quarters, while it is likely to overdo the work in others; and that, moreover, it is calculated to intensify and not to allay sectarian rivalries and jealousies. The Archdeacon's notion is, apparently, that Parliament should help those districts that are willing to help themselves; but, unfortunately, there are districts in which men will not help themselves in this matter—where "sites legally conveyed" will not be provided for schools, and where, consequently, Government can "assist" neither in building nor in maintaining them. What is to be done with such recalcitrant regions? Are they to be left uncared for? Are children still to be allowed to grow up there uneducated and in "brutish ignorance?" Then the accommodation is likely to be provided in superabundance in other quarters. Every church and chapel—every congregation, whether belonging to a "church" or a "sect"—will be for having its own school, partly erected and maintained at the public cost, whether such school be needed in the neighbourhood or not. We shall thus have schools jostling each other, and striving for pupils, in some places, while others are left totally unprovided for. Much money will thus be fruitlessly expended, much sectarian rivalry and jealousy engendered, while the great object of providing reasonable means of instruction for all children everywhere will not really be attained.

We would be content to yield a good deal to reconcile differences and to accomplish practical benefits in this most vital matter of education; but we fear the Archdeacon's scheme will only multiply and perpetuate abuses. Action is needed, not so much in districts that are able and willing to do the work for themselves, in whole or in part, as in those which are neither willing nor able to do anything at all; and this difficulty Mr. Denison's plan does not meet. It cannot, therefore, we fear, prove acceptable to educationists generally, however accordant it may be with the views of the adherents of "churches" and "sects," about whose interests the Rev. Archdeacon is so very anxious.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO LIVERPOOL.

On the night of Thursday, Jan. 9, the Mayor of Liverpool (Mr. Edward Whitley) gave a magnificent ball in honour of the visit of Prince Arthur, Prince and Princess Christian, and Princess Henrietta of Schleswig-Holstein. On this occasion the Exchange News-room—itsself one of the noblest halls in the kingdom—was united to the Townhall; and, the resources of both buildings being brought into play, there was the most ample and luxurious accommodation for the guests, who numbered about 3000, and comprised, in addition to the Royal visitors and the Knowsley party, the leading families of the town and neighbourhood. The state-rooms of the Townhall are large and handsomely equipped, even on ordinary occasions; and the only additions found necessary were evergreens and vases and some additional statuary, which were placed in the most advantageous positions, under the careful and tasteful management of Mr. Holden and Mr. Abbott (the upholsterers engaged by the Mayor's committee), and Mr. Gilbert W. Moss, one of the ball stewards. The three drawing-rooms of the Townhall were used as reception-rooms; the large and small ball-rooms as drawing-rooms for the general company, and the small dining-room as a supper-room for the Royal party. From the Queen's balcony, at the back of the Townhall, a communication had been established by a temporary wooden corridor or bridge with the Exchange News-room. This corridor, like the passages of the Townhall, was elegantly draped with fluted tulle, green and white, bordered with flowers, adorned with mirrors and brilliantly lighted by rows of lamps suspended

from the centre of the roof. The floors of the rooms and corridors were carpeted with crimson cloth. By the corridor opening from the Queen's balcony the visitors, as they arrived, proceeded to the news-room, which had been prepared for dancing. The effect here was magnificent. The room and dome were flooded with light, which was reflected from the varied and polished marbles which have been so extensively employed on the walls, and the elaborate architectural interior was brought out with photographic minuteness. At the south side of the hall a dais, surmounted by a lofty canopy of purple and gold, had been placed, with chairs of state in crimson satin and gold, for the accommodation of the Royal visitors and the ladies in waiting, and when thus seated they could see and be seen to the greatest advantage. At the side of this dais were marble busts of the Queen and the late Prince Consort, admirably relieved by red velvet drapery at the back. One of the galleries, ordinarily used as a reading-room, had been fitted up specially for the Royal visitors as a drawing-room, from which they could overlook, when not disposed to dance, the gay throng below. This drawing-room was carpeted and furnished with exquisite taste, some splendid vases and articles of virtu having been collected from the rooms of Messrs. Elkington, Mayer, Litherland, &c., and tastefully disposed by the committee. Beneath the west gallery was a refreshment buffet, and there were supper-rooms both under the ball-room and at the Townhall. Over 2500 guests were present. It was expected that the Royal party would arrive shortly after ten. It was, however, close upon eleven when the approach of the Royal carriages was announced. The Mayor at once descended to the foot of the grand staircase, and there, with a dignity and self-possession which did him infinite credit, received his Royal guests, and, offering his arm to Princess Helena, led the way through the reception and drawing rooms to the dais in the ball-room, followed by Prince Arthur and Princess Henrietta, Prince Christian, Miss Whitley, the Countess of Derby, Lady Constance and Captain Stanley, and a numerous party of lords and ladies staying at Knowsley and Croxteth. As they passed along a gentle clapping of gloved hands gave earnest what the welcome would have been had etiquette permitted. Princess Christian wore a white satin robe, trimmed with deep fringes of Honiton lace, having a long train, richly trimmed with lace. Across her shoulders was a white sash with pink edges, denoting the Order of Schleswig-Holstein. On her right shoulder she wore a large cameo set in diamonds, presented to her by her Majesty the Queen. On her head was a splendid tiara of diamonds. She had also a rich necklace of diamonds, and the order of Victoria and Albert. She had besides a massive diamond bracelet and jewellery to correspond. Princess Henrietta wore a white moire antique dress, trimmed with pointed lace. Around her neck she had a string of pearls, and on her head a triple band of diamonds. The Countess of Derby was dressed in a black satin robe, covered with white Honiton lace and richly decorated with diamonds. Prince Arthur and Prince Christian wore the ribbon of the Garter. After the Royal party had sat a short time on the raised dais, Streather's band, which occupied the orchestra, struck up a quadrille, and the Mayor led Princess Christian into such a space as could be obtained in the densely-crowded hall, and opened the dance, in which the other members of the Royal party joined. This ceremony concluded, a general promenade commenced. The scene had now reached the climax of its splendour. The efforts to light the hall effectively had been most successful, and the spectacle was indeed a brilliant one. The many-coloured and richly-jewelled dresses of the ladies and the brilliant uniforms of officers of all the three services, contrasting, yet harmonising, with the sombre black of the commonalty of gentlemen, formed a scene which one might gaze upon long enough without tiring. In various parts of the hall a few daring ones tried a dance, but at best it was but half successful, and not one couple in a dozen succeeded in obtaining a turn in either waltz, galop, or quadrille. A few knowing ones went to the Townhall ball-room, obtained the services of the Guards' band, under the baton of Bandmaster Godfrey, and enjoyed a quiet dance without the slightest crush or inconvenience.

Many evidently came only with the object of walking round, seeing the principal guests and their acquaintances, if they could find them, and then returning home. The departures had certainly commenced before the arrivals had finished. The whole proceedings were highly gratifying and successful.

THE CORONERSHIP FOR WEST MIDDLESEX.—There are seven candidates in the field for the coronership of the western division of Middlesex, with the prospect of several others before the day of election. They are Dr. Diplock, of Oakley-square; Dr. Whitmore, the medical officer of Marylebone; Dr. Hardwicke, deputy coroner for central Middlesex; Dr. Holt Dunn; Mr. George Brown, surgeon, of Kensal-green; Mr. Hand, solicitor, of New Inn, and Deputy Coroner to Mr. Bird, the late Coroner, and Mr. Isaacson, solicitor, of St. Clement Dances.

THE SUFFERERS FROM THE CLERKENWELL EXPLOSION.—Mr. Gant, surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-Inn-road, who has the care of the patients at that institution who were injured through the late explosion at the Clerkenwell House of Detention, reports that two of the sufferers, Harriet Roberts, thirty, and Emma Thompson, eight, have so far recovered that it is expected they may safely be discharged in a few days. Both of them were dangerously wounded. The boy Arthur Abbott, who is incurably blind, lies in a very pitiable condition, and, as described by the medical officer, "in a state of living death." Many of the out-patients injured by the explosion will soon cease to require surgical attention.

THE CLERKENWELL GUARDIANS.—It has been officially communicated to the poor-law guardians of Clerkenwell that the central authority has decided to deal with them under the new (Mr. Gathorne Hardy's) Act. The guardians who have hitherto had confined to them the duty of watching over the poor were life-elected by the vestry under a local Act, and as the vestry generally elected its own members to vacancies as they occurred, the board was looked upon by the parishioners as being self-elected, and they were wholly beyond the power of any authority. The new Act abolishes all these life appointments, and in place of the self-elected guardians a returning officer has been nominated, who has called upon the parishioners to elect, from among the five wards of the parish, eighteen guardians; and the minimum rateable qualification for each is £40, whereas the qualification for the life-elected guardians was £20. Besides the eighteen guardians to be elected, the Poor-Law Board has the power to nominate others.

RELIEF OF LONDON DISTRESS.—The Poor-Law Board, acting on a report of one of its inspectors, Mr. Corbett, has just sent round to the guardians of unions and parishes a letter containing an abundance of excellent suggestions with regard to the relief of the prevailing distress. These are, briefly, that the guardians shall in each district increase the number—in the east of London, we presume—of places where applications for relief may be received, and the number of relieving officers, so that each case may receive prompt investigation; that the principle of giving relief to the able-bodied, only for work done, shall still be maintained, but that more places of employment shall be established, and a more varied kind of work provided (for instance, wood-cutting, in addition to the stone-breaking, and, when the frost is over, digging and wheeling gravel for the men, and for the women, the making of clothes, the material to be provided by the guardians); that, while the parents are thus engaged, their children shall be housed in the parochial schools; that more relief depôts for the supply of immediate wants be formed, and that at each depôt soup, bread, and fuel be given away.

A NEW SCHEME FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION.—Archdeacon Denison intends to hold a public meeting at Willis's Rooms, on Feb. 12, in favour of what he understands by "freedom of national education." He has published a series of resolutions which are then to be moved, but everybody who may choose to attend is to have full liberty of discussing them, subject only to the mover's right of reply. The resolutions are the following:—1. That it appears to this meeting that it is necessary that aid be given out of public funds towards building and maintaining sufficient schools for the education of the poor. 2. That such aid be, not by rate local or general, but by Parliamentary grant, to be administered by the Committee of Council on Education as Parliament shall direct. 3. That such aid be applied—(a) To assist in building schools of all religious bodies upon sites legally conveyed, secured for the purposes of education, and open to all children whose parents are willing to accept the education, and to comply with the rules and regulations of the school. Religious teaching therein, and all manner of regulation connected with it, to be left unconditionally free to the managers of each school. (b) To assist in maintaining schools by annual grants. The amount of such grants to be proportioned to secular results, as these are ascertained by her Majesty's inspectors. The manner of producing such results to be left unconditionally free to the managers of each school. 4. That, where desired, such aid be applied to assist in building and maintaining purely secular schools.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Army Regulation Bill has been finally agreed to by the Corps Législatif, an amendment to allow substitutes in the National Guard Mobile having been rejected, with the concurrence of the Government.

The prosecution for publishing illegal reports of the debates has been dropped against five of the papers, but the editors of the *Débats*, *Constitutionnel*, *Opinion Nationale*, *France*, and seven others, have been committed for trial by the Juge d'Instruction.

There is much distress in all the manufacturing towns of France. The operatives of Lyons, Lille, Nantes, Rouen, and Roubaix especially are suffering from destitution, and are in a state bordering on starvation.

A vessel used as a powder magazine in the port of Toulouse has blown up. One workman was killed and four were injured.

ITALY.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies resumed its sittings last Saturday. General Menabrea, having announced the entry into the Ministry of three new members, made an appeal to the Chamber for concord and conciliation in order to enable the Government to effect a restoration of the public administration and to strengthen the principle of order and authority. He pointed out that the perils which threaten the country were not yet removed; that great financial danger was imminent, and that the reactionary party were planning impossible schemes for the division of Italy. He therefore called on all to rally round the flag of the monarchy, of duty, and of liberty.

General Cialdini has resigned the post of Italian Minister to the Court of Austria, which had been conferred upon him some months ago.

A correspondent at Florence, writing on the 5th inst., thus describes the present state of parties in the Italian Chamber:—"General Menabrea has few sincere supporters in the Chamber. The chief of them belong to the party led by Minghetti, Ricasoli, and Peruzzi, who, though ostensibly supporters of the Ministry, are secretly making every effort to overthrow it. The policy of this party may be briefly stated as one of expectation. They consider that the evacuation of the Papal territories by the French troops may be obtained by negotiation, and that Italy should then wait for the complications which threaten to convulse Europe next spring. Another strong party, that of Cialdini and Depretis, has a similar programme—namely, to obtain Rome either by working on the good nature and internal weakness of France, or by getting up a coalition against her. This party has on two recent occasions decided the result of a contest between the Government and the Opposition. In the question of electing a president of the Chamber it sided with the Conservatives, and thereby gained them the victory; and its coalition with the Opposition in the last division caused the overthrow of the Ministry. The following figures show the number of votes now at the command of each of the various parties:—Radicals (under Rattazzi and Crispi), 130; Moderates (under Cialdini), 40; Government (including the Minghetti party), 199; Clericals, 6."

PRUSSIA.

The famine in East Prussia is reaching a deplorable height. It extends over a tract of country inhabited by 1,250,000 people, a very considerable portion of whom are destitute of the most ordinary necessities of life. In some parts the sufferers, a large proportion of whom seem to be Lithuanians, have been terrified by the appearance of a malignant typhus, the result of starvation or a long-continued course of bad food. In Esthonia and Finland, provinces not very distant from those outlying regions of Prussia, things are even worse. From Berlin daily trains with fuel and provisions are despatched to the afflicted districts, but as yet without any visible alleviation of the calamity. The charitable munificence of the middle classes is very great.

AUSTRIA.

Rumours are current that Field Marshal Lieutenant Baron von John is about to resign his post of Minister of War for the Empire, and will be succeeded by Field Marshal Lieutenant von Kuhn.

BAVARIA.

It is considered very doubtful whether the bill for the reorganisation of the army will pass the Chambers. The Upper House is unwilling to give way on the question of the contingent and promotion clauses of the bill, to which the Lower House strongly adheres. It is rumoured that the Chamber will shortly be dissolved.

CRETE.

A proclamation of the Grand Vizier was read to the Cretan delegates on the 31st ult., which places the general population of Crete upon a footing of complete equality, grants an exemption from tithe imposts for two years from March next, and provides that, at the expiration of that period, only one half the tithes shall be levied for another two years, the proceeds to be applied "for special purposes." A general assembly to discuss subjects relating to public utility is to be established, and exemption from military service on payment being made for substitutes is also granted.

THE UNITED STATES.

The American Congress continues pertinaciously to oppose the policy of President Johnson. The Senate, on Tuesday, passed a resolution reinstating Mr. Stanton in the post of Secretary for War, from which he had been removed by the President; and the same day Mr. Stanton resumed possession of his office, General Grant, it appears, quietly retreating. The House of Representatives, knowing that the majority of the Judges of the Supreme Court regard many of its proceedings as unconstitutional, has passed a bill declaring that the concurrence of two thirds of the members of the court is necessary to decide on the legality of any of the acts of Congress. The House on Wednesday rejected the bill passed by the Senate abolishing the tax upon the cotton crop of 1865.

There is said to be a strong disposition in the House of Representatives to withhold the necessary appropriation of funds for the purchase of St. Thomas, both as a measure of retrenchment and as a means of "snubbing" Secretary Seward and stamping profligacy upon the Administration.

General Grant has, by the direction of President Johnson, issued an order removing Generals Pope and Ord, and assigning Generals Meade and McDowell their successors. General Pope is to report to Washington, and General Ord, who was removed at his own request, will relieve General McDowell of the command of the department in California. The same order removes General Swayne from the command of the Freedmen's Bureau in Alabama.

Grant continues to receive nominations for the presidency from numerous Republican clubs, but the friends of Mr. Chase are manifesting great zeal in his cause, particularly in the south. Advice from that section indicate that the Chief Justice is unquestionably the choice of the southern white and negro Radicals. Prominent Republican journals continue to call upon Grant for an avowal of his principles, and declare that the party will not take him on account of his availability alone.

The naval committee of the Senate has reported in favour of authorising the President to appoint naval officers on the retired list, not below the rank of commander, to consular positions. The officers are only to have their "shore way" while serving as Consuls, and it is estimated that a large sum will thus be saved to the Government.

Judge Basted, of the Federal Court of Alabama, was shot seriously, but not fatally, by the district attorney (Martin), at Mobile, for refusing to quash an indictment for revenue frauds brought against him.

MEXICO.

The revolt at Yucatan continues. The rebels hold Merida. In consequence of the revolt, Juarez has issued an order banishing all Imperialists.

THE AUSTRIAN SQUADRON, with the remains of the late Emperor Maximilian, has arrived at Pola. It was received with mourning salutes.

THE LAW OF NATURALISATION.

At the fourth meeting of the Jurisprudence Department of the Society for the Promotion of Social Science and the Amendment of the Law (Sir R. Phillimore in the chair), Mr. John Westlake read an able and learned paper upon "Naturalisation and Expatriation, or a Change of Nationality." The learned gentleman observed that the recent speech of President Johnson, and the proposed alteration in the French law of conscription, as it affected foreigners, had given fresh importance to this subject. He then pointed out the state of the law on the question as it at present exists, and gave examples of its inconveniences and inconsistencies. He proposed that, in any scheme for the improvement of international law in reference to this matter, three or four cardinal points should be kept in sight—viz., a simple form of naturalisation; a provision for securing that permanent residents in a foreign country should be naturalised after the residence of a certain number of years; the abolition of all claims by the original Government on the persons so naturalised; some provisions to meet the case of such persons returning to their own country. On the first three points he apprehended that little difference of opinion existed. But the fourth point was full of practical difficulty. For instance, persons born in Prussia who had emigrated to America claimed, upon returning to their native land, to be exempted from the conscription, on the ground that they were American citizens. The Prussian Government denied their claim. The American Government held that it was good, except in the cases of persons who had fled to America after being actually enrolled in the army; a distinction which the Prussian Government by no means admitted. He thought that a time should be fixed after which no denationalised person should have any right to claim upon the Government of the country to which he originally belonged. The new French law would make the children of foreigners born in France liable to the conscription. Under the old law exempting these persons, no doubt some injustice was done to the State in the case of persons who, though foreigners, were domiciled in France, and were, to all intents and purposes, French subjects, but whose children could yet claim exemption. On the other hand, the present law would be hard upon children born in France of parents who were only staying in the country a short time. The sound rule, he thought, would be to exempt children born under such circumstances, but to declare that children of persons domiciled in the country should be liable to the conscription, whether their parents were naturalised or not. In reference to the question of what constitutes nationality, Mr. Westlake pointed out that, during the American War, the British Government were continually requested to extend its protection to British subjects in the United States, in order to exempt them from the conscription; but, whenever a British subject had either taken out his first papers or had exercised the franchise in the United States, the British Government declined to interfere. Now, under the Treason-felony Act we possessed the power of punishing an Englishman in England for conspiracy—let us say against our country in America; but, after the determination of the British Government not to recognise as British subjects anyone who had either taken out his first papers or exercised the franchise, it would, he apprehended, be difficult for us to punish in our own courts any Englishman for an offence committed in America, if he could show that he had taken those preliminary steps towards becoming an American citizen.

A discussion followed the reading of the paper, in the course of which

Mr. Vernon Harcourt maintained that every State had the unquestionable right to subject to whatever laws and regulations it pleased all the persons, whether natives or foreigners, who were within its boundaries; and that foreigners, as such, had no rights whatever, except what the country in which they resided chose to give them. This he believed to be international doctrine, and the true principle of the law; though no doubt strong States, in dealing with weak ones, had often claimed certain privileges for their own subjects which the weaker States had been obliged to concede. The United States practically acted upon this principle, because in 1863, as soon as the pressure of the war began to be felt, they declared that every man in the United States who had expressed the intention of becoming a citizen should be liable to enlistment, and he believed that they even passed an Act subsequently forbidding any person to leave their limits in order to avoid the conscription. With regard to the non-liability of a foreigner to be tried in this country for a crime committed abroad, Mr. Vernon Harcourt showed that our law on this subject had sprung from the old Anglo-Saxon technical doctrine of venue; that no other country except England and America extended any such absurd protection to foreigners; and that the effect of it with us was, that an American who had killed an Englishman abroad could not be tried here for the offence; though an Englishman who had killed an American abroad could be taken and tried in this country the moment he set foot on it. Could anything be more ridiculous or more unjust towards ourselves?

Mr. Chisholm Anstey, Mr. Farrie, Mr. Merriman, and Mr. F. Hill continued the discussion.

Sir R. Phillimore admitted the importance of the question, which must undoubtedly soon attract general attention. The difficulties to be settled were, however, serious. When could a man be said to leave his country? The ordinary traveller, who left for health, or recreation, or business, was entitled to the protection of his own Government; and it would be difficult to fix an arbitrary limit of duration upon which the maintenance of his nationality should depend. And, again, before a person could be effectually denationalised, as it was called, the concurrence must be obtained of the old country he left and of the new one to which he had gone. With regard to exemption from military service, he had had the responsibility of considering with his colleagues what the legal position of the British Government was in respect of British persons in the United States, and he had found it absolutely necessary to come to some definite rule; and he had considered that the rule should be that a British person could not claim the protection of the British Government if he had established himself in the United States, had purchased lands or established manufactures, and still more when he had exercised the franchise or taken steps to make himself a citizen of the United States. In reference to the competency of a State to punish a foreigner for a crime committed against it elsewhere, he was greatly inclined to agree in the view taken by Mr. Vernon Harcourt, and to think that the technical doctrine of venue ought not to prevent justice being done, the more especially as in civil cases the difficulty was got over by means of a fictitious venue. He was even inclined to go farther, and to believe that any crime committed abroad by a foreigner, not merely against the State, but also against an English subject, should make him liable to be tried here for it.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS.—Mr. Charles Dickens, it is stated, is overwhelmed with requests for his autograph. He deals with them summarily, however. Applicants receive a printed answer, saying, "To comply with your modest request would not be reasonably possible." It is said that to envelop, direct, and mail these replies the services of three secretaries are constantly required. At New York, on the last night of the old year, Mr. Dickens read "David Copperfield" and "Bob Sawyer's Party" to a large and brilliant audience. At the close Mr. Dickens stepped to the front and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you, from my heart of hearts, a happy, happy New Year!" This is the only speech Mr. Dickens has made in America.

JOINT-PURSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CALEDONIAN AND NORTH-BRITISH RAILWAYS.—It has been pretty well understood lately that important negotiations have been going on between committees of directors of the Caledonian and North British Railway Companies, including the chairman in each case. We believe that the terms of an agreement for a long period of years, upon the principle of a joint purse, on the basis generally of gross revenue returns, have now been all arranged, and will shortly be submitted to meetings of the shareholders of both companies, to be specially called for their consideration and approval. It is also understood that the arrangement will include mutual stipulations for the postponement of a large amount of new works on the part of both companies. This arrangement will undoubtedly form one of the most important eras in the history of railway property, and may be expected to operate most beneficially for the contracting parties.—*Scotsman*. [Ay; but how about the public interests?]

PRINCE ALFRED AMONG THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

THE visit of Prince Alfred to the Australian colonies has been made the occasion of immense rejoicings. There have been dinners, balls, addresses, triumphal arches, and all the other incidents usual on such occasions. But perhaps the most interesting affair was a visit his Royal Highness paid to the aborigines. A South Australian paper thus describes the event:—

The Duke of Edinburgh, in the course of his visit to South Australia, went up to the Lakes. On his way, passing by Point Sturt, two or three miles brought the steamers to the landing-place called Macbeth. It is a station of the Hon. John Baker, on the peninsula, between Lake Albert and the Coorong. Some time before reaching this the tents which had been erected ashore for the use of the party were observable, and on reaching still nearer a cloud of blacks, with a number of white people also, were clearly discernible. The steamers having been stopped, his Royal Highness and party put off from the Queen, and were taken to the landing by the crew of the steamer, who were in uniform. As soon as the boat touched the shore, three thundering cheers were given by the black fellows—cheers which for heartiness excelled even the hearty cheers which had welcomed his Royal Highness elsewhere. The Prince landed, and walked up the avenue which had been formed by about 400 blacks. One native bore a union jack, and a second a banner with the words "Point Macleay and 'Peace,' with an emblem of peace, and also the sentence 'Welcome to our Country.'" At the top of the avenue a black fellow stood with a red-white-and-blue flag, bearing the inscription "Coolwa black fellow big one glad see im Queen picaninny." His Royal Highness then walked up to his tents, before which he watched the dancing and antics of the natives. The blacks were then all mustered for the presentation of an address to his Royal Highness. A native named George Pantoni, from the Point Macleay Institution, came forward, and read the following address, correctly, but in a very low voice:—"To his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Your Royal Highness,—We, who are young men belonging to all the Lake tribes of natives, are glad to tell you our joy at seeing you in this our country. Our old men show to your Royal Highness the corroboree, or, as we call it, ringballin, such as our fathers used to have before the white man came here. But we do not wish you to think that we are wild blacks because such a sight is shown to you. For seven years our tribes on this peninsula have had a Christian teacher. Nearly one hundred native children have been taught in school. Every Sunday more than fifty of us meet together to pray to the same God and hear of the same Jesus as your Royal Highness does. Some have given up native customs and become real Christians, and many others are learning the way. Many of us get an honest living by working like white people. We have often been told about the Queen, your mother, and we hope and pray that God will always bless her; and may his blessing rest upon her children, especially yourself; and may He take care of you till you see your mother's face in England again!" His Royal Highness promised to write a reply and send it to Mr. Taplin, who was present. Night was now coming on, and every one seemed anxious to select a tent and make sure of a comfortable night under cover. The natives were accordingly sent away to their camps, a little way off, and the party who had accompanied the Prince were busily engaged in collecting their "traps," and depositing them in the tents. Supper concluded, a start was made to see the grand corroboree, any description of which would fail to convey an idea of its character to the reader's mind. We can only give a notion of the way in which it was managed, but a corroboree must be seen for a proper conception to be formed of it. About thirty or forty women were seated, and beat time with wonderful precision on a cushion or rug before them, keeping up a monotonous "Yah-yah, yah-yah!" increasing in earnestness as the excitement heightened. On the arrival of the Prince at the camp about thirty of the Point Macleay men—naked, except from the waist, and painted in the most singular and grotesque manner—were lying down as if dead. After one or two manoeuvres with their legs they all sprang up, and then the real dancing began. Most of the natives had waddies, spears, boomerangs, and other warlike implements, and kept up a sort of monotonous song, ending now and again with a whoop. The night was too light—it being full moon—to see the corroboree with all the unearthly effect which a dark night gives to it, but sufficient was seen to give his Royal Highness an idea of the mysterious and fiendish dance. The several tribes of blacks amalgamated for this corroboree; and Mr. B. E. Scott, the protector of aborigines, made all the arrangements for the grand assembly, and there was a darkie as M.C. The Prince continued at the natives' camp till eleven o'clock, when he and the rest of the party left; but before leaving, the blacks presented a number of their implements before him as gifts from them. During the evening rounds of cheers were given at intervals on a signal from the M.C., and as return compliment the Duke sent for his piper, Farquharson, who played the pipes, much to the astonishment of the natives.

THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.—Sir Robert Napier landed at Annesley Bay on the 4th inst. He was received by Colonel Merewether and General Staveley, and was to proceed forthwith to the front. The naval brigade was, at the date of Sir Robert's arrival, in course of organisation for immediate service. All doubts as to the friendliness of the chief of Tigre towards the expedition appear to be removed. The latest telegraphic advice from Annesley Bay stated that the chief had offered to victual the force, and had actually sent 2000 bullocks for its use. A message from Colonel Merewether, dated Senafe, Dec. 28, has been received at the India Office. The gallant Colonel reports favourably of the line of march thence for thirty miles and the friendliness of the people. A battle was imminent between the Wagshum and King Theodore. No further letters had been received from the captives.

CONSUL CAMERON.—During all the Abyssinian controversies which have raged both in and out of Parliament during the last eighteen months, a great deal has been said either in praise or in censure of Consul Cameron; but, oddly enough, while there have been innumerable letters from Mr. Stern, the missionary, and more recently not a few from Mr. Rassam and Dr. Blane, the Consul has studiously refrained from putting his pen to paper. Now, however, he has broken silence, and has made an important statement. In a letter to Mrs. Beke he accuses her husband of being the innocent cause of his incurring the displeasure of King Theodore. He says that Dr. Beke "sent some pamphlets to the Foreign Office recommending a consulate and factory to be established at Souakin; and as I got orders to report on the matter, I went to Cassala, and afterwards to Matamma, to get the necessary information, as well as to learn what an army of 15,000 Egyptians had been doing at the latter place."

BABY GANGLERS.—Mr. Benson Baker, one of the poor-law medical officers of Marylebone, has under his present charge one of the children who survived the care of Mrs. Jagger, and who, he says, is something over three years old. This mere child was employed by the proprietress as a gaffer or ganger over the younger babies. His duties were to sit up in the middle of the bed with eight other babies round him, and the moment any one of them awoke to put the bottle to its mouth; he was also to keep them quiet, and generally to superintend them. This baby ganger has quite the appearance of an "old hand"; he is intelligent beyond his years, quite grave and thoughtful. He knows all about "Mother Jagger" and her doings; also about the "old babies" being put in the box, and "new babies" being brought by "Mother Jagger." When the baby ganger was not officially employed, he was tied in a little chair (he cannot walk) and placed beside the fire; one day "Mother Jagger" had a "drop of gin," so his baby informant tells Mr. Baker, and the baby ganger fell into the fire, and as he was tied into the chair he could not crawl away, and "Mother Jagger" was powerless to help him. His pinafore caught fire, burnt the ends of four of his fingers off one hand, and partially destroyed the muscles on the inner side of the other arm. This baby will thus be more or less incapacitated from ever earning a living.—*British Medical Journal*.

MEETING OF THE SAWGRINDERS' UNION AT SHEFFIELD.—A meeting of the Saw and Jobbing Grinders' Union was held on Tuesday evening, and there was a full attendance of members. The first business was to consider the state of the finances, which have very much fallen off since the Commission of Inquiry. A member who, notwithstanding the denunciatory disclosures of the commission, has been retained in the union, got up, and for the space of a minute or two surveyed the meeting in silence with that gloomy, determined expression on his heavy brows which those who heard him deny and afterwards confess his crimes will well remember; he then said he did not know whether a reporter was in the room or not, and for his own part he did not care, for it mattered very little to him. The society had gone down ever since the Commission, and why? And why?—looking slowly round the room—because rattening had not gone on briskly enough, as it had done before. This boldly suggestive statement seemed to take the meeting aback; some seemed to hail with delight the proposed renewal of the "old game," while others appeared to shrink from the invitation to re-enact their long catalogue of crimes. A hubbub ensued, and several shouted, "Nothing like rattening and boiled treacle!"—an allusion to an old joke, and received with loud laughter. A member named Machin then rose and said that if rattening was to go on he should withdraw from the society altogether. The members of the committee who were present spoke against rattening, and declared that they would never sanction such proceedings. About the general feeling of the meeting there could be no mistake, that rattening must be vigorously resorted to again, or the society could not continue to exist. The next business was to consider the case of the notorious "Patty Shaw," now in prison for an indecent assault. In regard to this matter the following resolution, which has been officially furnished to the press as a report of the meeting, was passed:—"That George Shaw, alias Patty Shaw, shall be expelled from this society for his general bad conduct." The subject of the rattening of George Peace, which took place last Saturday night, next came before the meeting; but, as nobody knew anything about it except through the press, of course no new light was thrown on this mysterious and inscrutable business. The committee declared that they knew nothing at all about it, and expressed their determination to give up office if rattening were persisted in. No resolution was come to upon this subject. The meeting, which was very disorderly throughout, lasted nearly four hours.

GARIBALDI V. PRIESTHOOD.

GENERAL GARIBALDI has recently transmitted the subjoined letter to a friend in France:—

"My very dear M. de —,—Thanks for the works which our mutual friend Pallavicino has been good enough to transmit to me. I shall read them with great interest, like all which comes from you. 'Why attempt a solution by force which would have come of itself?' you ask of me. Well, my worthy friend, I am of a contrary opinion. To wait till the Papacy operates its own destruction is to commit an error, and France pays to-day for the credulity of which she was guilty in '89. America and England plume themselves upon their religious liberties; the first did certainly escape national assassination at the hands of the Papist rioters of New York and other States; but the second has a gloomy task before it in clearing away the clouds of Fenianism. Shall we be simple enough to believe that the priests would put an end to themselves to oblige humanity? Thistles and all harmful weeds propagate themselves with more fecundity and less trouble than any useful plants. I know you say, 'Liberty of worship, liberty of conscience, liberty for all opinion,' and I repeat the cry; only it must be in the mouth of honest men! Does anybody believe in liberty for vipers, for crocodiles, for thieves or assassins? And what is the priest but the assassin of the soul—far more mischievous than the assassin of the body? France, who for good and evil must influence so vastly the destinies of the world—do you think France was morally less advanced or more seventy-five years back, when she proclaimed to humanity, divided by the sacerdotal tricks, the sublime principle of fraternity, with rational religion and the one Supreme Being for its basis? France was then in the apogee of her influence; but, thanks to the pestilential germ of priestcraft which she spared, she stands now robbed of a century's growth in the splendid career of progress and freedom to which her high destinies call her. Priestcraft and Bonapartism, which openly nowadays take hands to keep each other up, give me out as the enemy of France. That is as much as saying I am an enemy to fruit because I hate slugs. Yes! I avow I do hate evil, hate vice, hate corruption, of which these pests are the emblem. But, France! Ah! my thousand friends in France, they will not let me stoop so low as to justify myself against that calumny! I will say something more. It would be very wrong to think that the absence of French contributions to the Italian enterprise was a proof of French ill-will. No; my countrymen have too much intelligence not to distinguish between the despot who insults us and the noble nation which he gags. Certainly, when the Italians reflect that the duties on your export goods pay the Pope's soldiers, I think they do well not to go much by 'lists of contributors.' I accept your pleasant augury of seeing me shortly in France. Truly, I should return with a filial love to my ancient land of exile, where I met a hospitality so cordial and generous. But you must be well persuaded that this will only happen when you have turned those 'black points' white which now deface your fair land. I grow old faster than my age, and I confess the condition of my country hastens life downwards. But I never despair of her future, above all with friends as devoted and noble as you."

POLICE PATROL AT MILLBANK PRISON.

OUR metropolitan police authorities are emphatically of the "wise-after-the-event" order of mankind. They shut the stable door when the steed has been stolen. Millbank Prison is now most carefully guarded. There is a foot-patrol, composed of policemen in pairs, inside the prison railings, but without the walls; and these foot watchers are from time to time visited and kept to their duty by a mounted patrol of inspectors, who likewise hunt in couples. This is all right and proper; it is wise to take precautions against possible mischief; only it is a mighty pity that similar measures were not taken in the case of Clerkenwell House of Detention when real danger was known to be threatened. A little foresight on Dec. 11 and 12 would effectually have averted the calamity of the 13th. However, better late than never; and we hope Sir Richard Mayne is equally vigilant in other quarters as at Millbank.

STREET SKETCHES IN LONDON.

LEICESTER-SQUARE.

IN the days when we were young and the Emperor Napoleon III. sat not upon the throne of France—and even afterwards, when his Majesty had been hoisted to his present proud position, and liberty, equality, and fraternity became ideas on account of which strife was no longer justifiable—many were the satires upon Leicester-square and the strange cosmopolitan community living on its borders. The foreign colony exists still, and some of the old political refugees who were poor enough not to care about going back remain; but the fashion of them has altered by the invasion of others of their countrymen who are not refugees. What are they—the members of this queer community? Who can tell, except he who has studied the haunts of that strange region once known as Leicester-fields? At any rate, they are not cosmopolitan; the different nationalities are as distinct in this microcosmic district as they are elsewhere; and such caterers as Bertolini, Kammerer, Bonjiovanni, the gentleman with the unpronounceable name, who has therefore become known to English loungers as "Consonant," and the proprietors of L'Etoile, have each their special supporters. As to the vocations of the gentlemen who congregate about this faded locality, they are as various as they are obscure. There are some professors of Red Republicanism, doubtless; and mysterious stabbings do sometimes occur, nobody knows why or how, in certain full-flavoured and dingy hotels, where the waiters with the smooth blue cheeks and subdued black eyes talk in polyglot; that is only accident, however, and the political refugee no more dreams now of playing much part on the stage of London streets than he hopes to see the statue of Liberty replace the mutilated figure in the cat-haunted rubbish heap called Leicester-square. Music, vocal and instrumental; a little drawing, a little translating, a little commerce in perfumes and cigars; a little touting, a good deal of billiards and occasional tuition in modern languages, with some practice of photographic, plastic, and other art; all these are to be found represented by our foreign brethren. At one time the wretched, skinny, starving creature, living on cat's-meat and cabbage-soup, and always saying "Yes, Sare," and trembling before the brawny and beefeating Englishman, was an ideal of the foreigner on British soil; then came a reaction; and it was the poor but noble old refugee, once a Marquis and still preserving a rusted old sword in a tarnished scabbard over his chimney-piece as a token that all was lost but honour and the pride of a noble name, now that he had to give lessons on the violin, "instrument beloved of his leisure hour when in sunny France." All this is changed now, and we meet Signor Bombini, the basso secondo; or Monsieur Achille Lemaître, "agent;" or Herr Grosshausen, professor of languages; or Jules, Henri, and Pythagore, of the band of his Highness the Kokhowsky of Moldavia, and recognise them as having sat at the opposite table when one last dined at some of the greasy restaurants with which this place abounds. Is Grosshausen at this moment declaiming to Bombini, with excited looks and outspread hands? Be sure that the subject of denunciation is nothing more important than the alteration of a libretto, or the execrable surcharge of two sous for bread at the table where it has been hitherto taken at discretion. There is no more harm in Grosshausen than in the shaved poodle which Bombini leads by a string; but the subject is an exciting one, and Achille, Henri, Jules, Giacomo, Fritz, all interpose, until—*ach, himmel!* stop your ears and go your way. Did you ever listen to the talk of half a dozen of these our adopted countrymen when they were gay, and, having finished their little feast with a cigarette and a cup of black coffee superficially blazing with a thimbleful of lighted brandy, grew loud, and defiant, and eager in their discussions? It is very wonderful to think that men can get up so much excitement about so little—so much effervescence to so little wine. You see we English think silence so very golden, and are so notoriously economical that we grudge to change golden silence for silver speech. Not so with

Achille and his companions. They haven't much else to spend, poor fellows; and so they don't care for your grave golden silence: they like to turn it into the small coin of talk, and rattle the change about till it rings again—silver, brass, copper, what matters it, so long as it be currency? There may be some bad money amongst it; but then it is such very small change who can grumble. If one could only invite a dozen of these boon companions to a banquet at L'Etoile what an evening one could have if only one could be quick enough with a polyglot conversation-book to follow their rapid speech! Not that L'Etoile is the resort of all these gentlemen, though they and many more meet there around the billiard-tables, or sit and play at dominos in the great saloon. Do you know L'Etoile? It is worth knowing as a genuine French restaurant which has not yet been ruined by English invasion; and yet may not this very praise help towards its deterioration? Let us hope not. Long may it be before that great slate on which the *carte* of the dinner is chalked disappears from the broad doorway; before the regulation dinner of soup, fish, two plates, salad, cheese, dessert, and half bottle is raised in price or injured in special quality by the too general appreciation of curious Britons who afterwards deprave the cook, oust the regular customers, transform the dishes, banish the huge bars of crusty bread, and raise demands for viands invented for them and called by names hitherto unknown! This has been the case with other places, which shall be nameless. But the brave host—we beg pardon, proprietor—of L'Etoile has held his own, as any man would who can feed a small army of hungry compatriots in a place which was once devoted to the Hunterian Museum and School of Surgery.

WINTER IN PARIS. SKATING IN THE BOIS DE BOULOGNE.

THE French, when they take to any amusement, generally contrive to make it picturesque, and in an especial manner have they done so with skating. During the recent severe weather, members of the Paris Skating Club and others, accompanied by ladies, were to be seen daily, and often nightly,

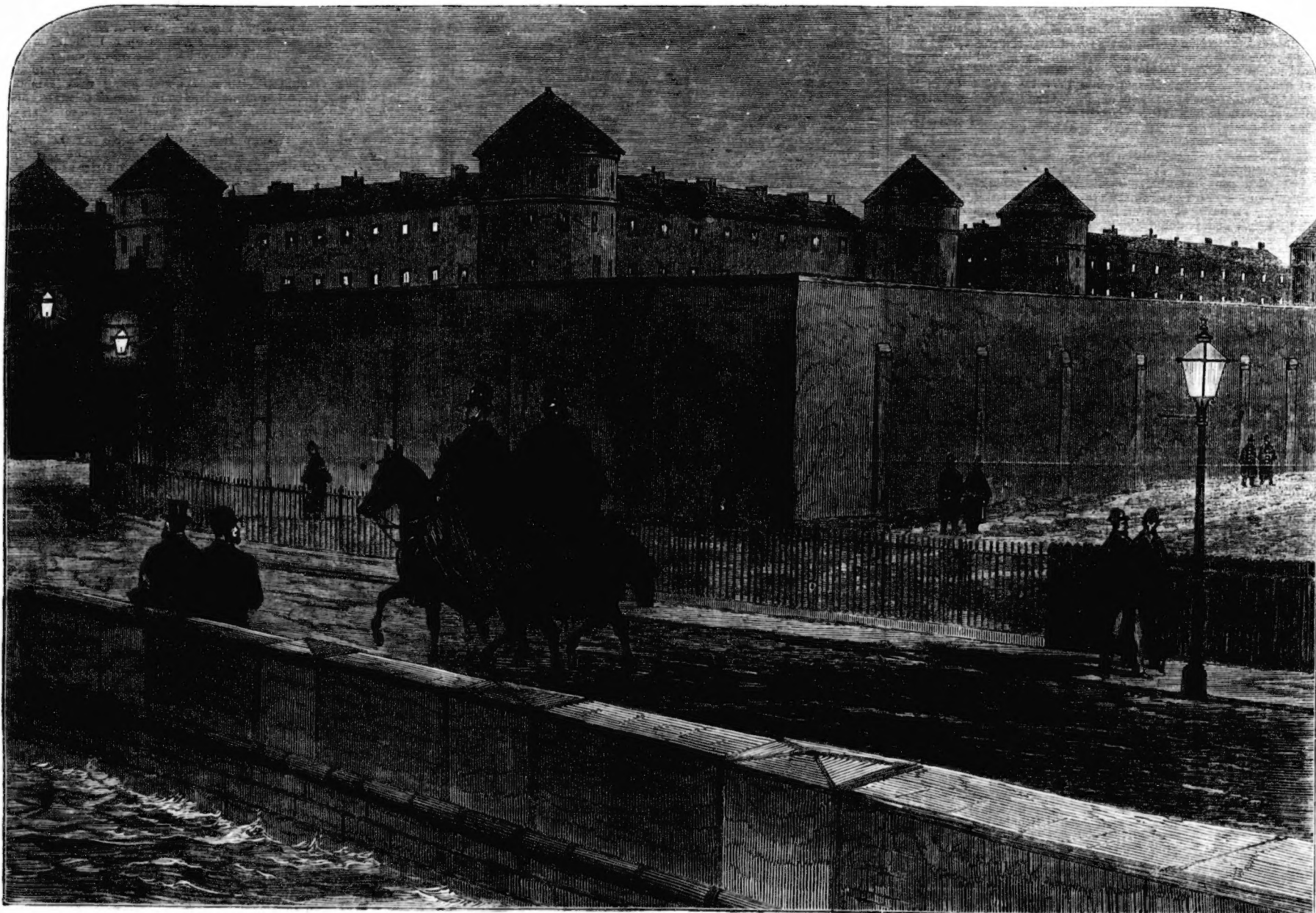


TYPES OF LONDON CHARACTERS: DENIZENS OF LEICESTER-SQUARE.

disporting themselves on the ice in the Bois de Boulogne, executing all sorts of fantastic evolutions, and habited in all sorts of fantastic costumes. The great event of the season in that line, however, was the grand night fête held on the 5th inst. The place chosen by the Skating Club was the shallow lake made expressly for them near the Madrid cricket-ground. Ten thousand "jets" of electrical light, many of them grouped in the form of garlands and bouquets, and a thousand Chinese lanterns suspended to the branches of trees, put out the moon, which was, moreover, frequently dimmed by snow-clouds. The environs of the club's Swiss chalet were paved with soft cocoa-nut matting, and every luxurious appliance for passing an evening in defiance of the cold was provided within. Ladies in great numbers, reclining in fur-lined sledges, were pushed about by their cavaliers. But no small proportion of the fair sex preferred to put on skates and dart about, rivalling the most expert of the men. Thousands of the meaner sort not provided with tickets of admission thronged the borders of the lake, and mingled with the splendid equipages of the members of the club. The fête, which began as early as eight o'clock, was not prolonged beyond midnight. Contrary to very general expectation, the Emperor and Empress were not there. In consequence of the slippery state of the roads, the company did not arrive till some time after they had calculated to be on the spot. The band of the 21st Regiment, which was punctual, played its first tunes to few auditors. By ten o'clock, however, there was a good show of the fashionable world. Among the performers were the Princess de Metternich, the Duchess de Morny, the Marquise de Galifat, Countess Paul Demidoff, Mme. Sauvage, Mme. Pourtales, Princess Ghiga, Princess de Sagan, Duchess de San Cesario, Duchess de Fernand Niuncz, Countess de Bastard, Viscountess Aguado, Djemil Pacha, M. de Saint Priest, the manager of the fête, Prince Murat, and the husbands of most of the married ladies above mentioned.

APPEARANCE OF THE SEINE DURING THE FROST.

The scene exhibited on the river Seine was certainly as pic-



POLICE PATROL AT MILLBANK PRISON.



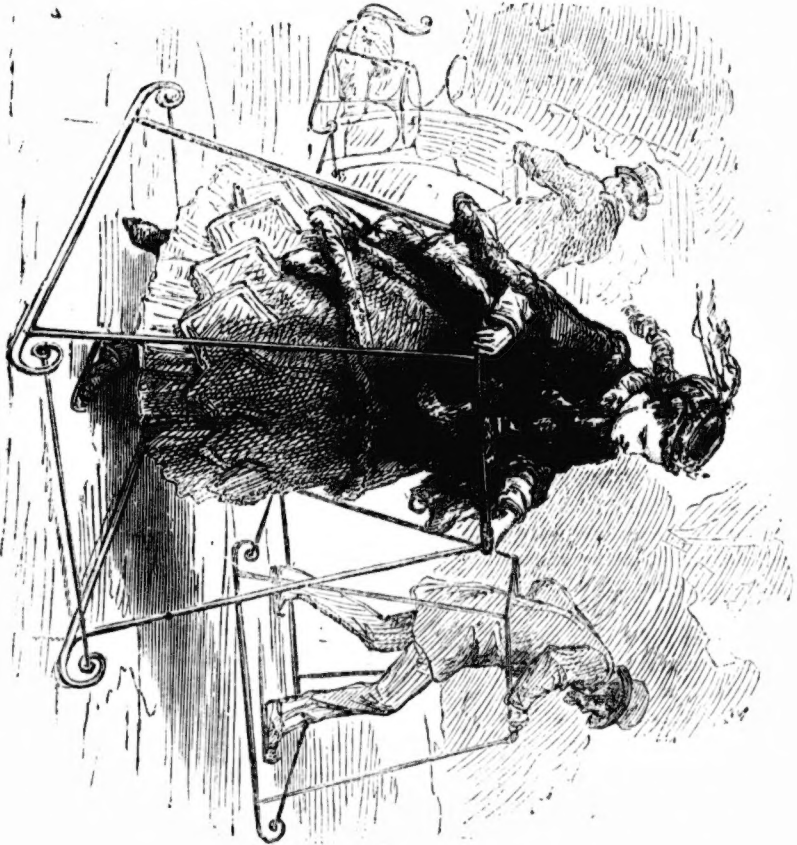
THE LADIES' STOVE.



A QUINTETTE.



THE SLEDGE.



THE GO-CART.



A SKATING DEUT.

EVOLUTIONS OF THE SEATING CLUB IN THE BOIS DE BOUTOGNE.

ture as that presented on the lake of the Bois de Boulogne—quite as picturesque, though less aristocratic. Indeed, the river and its banks had an aspect perfectly Siberian; and certainly the cold during two or three days was very intense. Until Monday the roofs of the houses still bore traces of the snow, and in the previous week numbers of men were employed in clearing away the half-melted snow from the streets, carting it away, and strewing sand upon the ground to prevent accidents. At the churches, the police courts, the sale-rooms of the Rue Drouot, and other public buildings, which in Paris are well warmed, the poor sought shelter from the bitter wind; and among the most attractive spectacles in Paris was the fountain of St. Michel, in which the waterspouted up by the two bronze dragons had frozen in the shape of enormous horns, supported by ranges of stalactites rising into fantastic columns of ice in each of the three basins. On the Seine, of course, the steam-boats were completely icebound; and it is twenty years since the river was so entirely frozen, the great white panorama extending from the bridge of Bercy as far as St. Cloud. During the first days of frost the scene on the river was most exciting, and the confusion indescribable. That arm of the Seine which separates the Isle of St. Louis, the Quai des Ormes, and that of the Celestins, is distinguished by a forest of beams, forming the remarkable Pont de l'Estacade; and here the masses of ice were sheltered and ultimately formed enormous blocks, which the hardy waterside folks, armed with hatchets, hooks, and crowbars, broke in pieces in order to clear that part of the river. It was at the point of the Cité that the scene was most picturesque, however; for at the base of the new building of the Morgue immense blocks of ice had accumulated. The washing-boats, the lighters and landing-stages, the river steamers, were all hung with frost, and were, of course, immovable; while everywhere people were to be seen upon the ice cutting, sawing, chopping, and using every effort to break up the mass and cart away the spoil. Notre Dame was a glorious sight, for that miracle of stonework was powdered white, and its strange outlines grew sharp under the winter sky, except where the hoary rime had hung new fantastic shapes upon those that were already placed there. Stone and ice seemed to blend in eccentric harmony. The gateway of St. Gervais and the Hôtel de Ville looked fresh under their white mantles, and the grand mass of the Louvre completed the picture. In fact, from the Pont Neuf to the Tuilleries, and, indeed, all Paris, may be said to have been a frozen city—a capital newly iced, like a bridecake, beautiful, but not to be regarded for long with complete satisfaction, for the poor suffered and were out of work; the occupation of boatmen, blanchisseuses, and others was at an end, and the people of Paris would soon have begun to suffer seriously if the cold weather had continued.

Our illustration is taken from a sketch made near the Pont des Arts—the nine-arched iron foot-bridge which was built in 1803, and took its name from the adjoining palace of the Louvre, once known as the Palais des Arts. Between this and the Pont des Saints-Pères the scene was dreary enough, but remarkably suggestive of the extreme rigour of the frost. The operations here were of a strictly business-like character, and the entire aspect of the river and its quays wanted the bright life and colour which distinguished the vicinity of the long, covered washing-boats, where the 300 laundresses of Paris belabour linen and cotton clothes with wooden bats, the floating baths, and all those objects which generally give a bright aspect to the river. They are most of them afloat again now, however, and the airy architecture of the frost has dissolved, and, like the baseless fabric of a vision, left scarcely a wrack behind. The thaw, which had set in last Saturday afternoon, continued during the night, with two or three slight showers of rain; and on Monday morning the snow was melting rapidly, and the sun and mild temperature which followed soon began to clear the icebound river. One terrible accident—the result of foolhardiness—is reported from Nantes, in the department of Seine-et-Oise. A countryman named Fouchet laid a wager that he would drive a heavily-laden hay wagon across the river on the ice. When half way over the vehicle stopped, and twenty-eight persons went to the aid of the driver. Suddenly the ice gave way under the weight, and all were swallowed up. Two boatmen, Bourdet Pinagues and Holtot, succeeded in saving nine persons; but the others were drowned. Among the victims was M. Canat, the Mayor of Porcheville.

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ABYSSINIA.

SPECULATIONS as to what shall be done with Abyssinia when British arms have conquered it, are becoming more and more frequent; and the foreign journals have already decided that England means to keep it, or, at least, a portion of it. It is not likely, these papers argue, that the English Government would send twelve thousand fighting men to liberate a dozen prisoners. That may be one of our objects, but only one, and that one not the most important. The French are persuaded that we shall "improve the occasion" to gain a good commercial footing in the country. The Russians see still further into the millstone of British designs, and are convinced that the expedition to Abyssinia is a step towards a solution of the Eastern question according to British interests. It has not yet been suggested that Consul Cameron, in getting himself imprisoned, was only acting up to his instructions. We are not absolutely accused of picking a quarrel with King Theodore; but, being in the quarrel, it is alleged that we mean to make as much as possible out of it. This view of the matter will be new to many Englishmen. But foreigners are convinced that they know more of our affairs than we do ourselves; and in despotic countries official organs are fond of maintaining that the control theoretically exercised by Parliament on the action of the Government is exercised in theory alone. Parliament is told and the people of England believe that the expedition to Abyssinia has been undertaken solely with the view of liberating the captives; but this, say foreign politicians, is by no means the view of our Government, which, when it has once laid hold of

Abyssinia, will no more let it go than the French allowed Algiers to escape from them when they had done the work which first took them there. The French sent an expedition against the Dey of Algiers with two avowed aims—to put an end to Algerine piracy, and to avenge an insult offered to the Consul of France. Not only did the Government of Charles X. conceal the true object of the expedition, it expressly disavowed it when questioned on the subject by the representative of England. It was believed that if the intention of France to establish a permanent settlement in Algiers were known, the English Government would oppose it; so, to make things pleasant, and to render the meditated settlement possible, a simple, easy device was resorted to, which in diplomacy is thought pardonable, but would be considered mean and inexcusable in any other sphere of action. The French Ministers told a deliberate falsehood, and persisted in doing so as long as persistence was possible. They began by declaring that the expedition was sent out with the double view of putting down piracy and avenging the wounded honour of France, and with no ulterior design whatever. When the world began to say that the wounded honour of France seemed to require an inordinate amount of satisfaction, plausible reasons were invented for prolonging the occupation, which still, however, was asserted to be only temporary. From temporary it became permanent; but the intention to remain was systematically denied as long as questions were asked on the subject, and until, at last, it had become useless to ask any questions at all. There the French were, and it was evident that if they were to go out they must be turned out.

Now, we can quite understand the French thinking that we are about to play—or, indeed, are now playing—in Abyssinia the game they played some forty years ago in Algeria; and it is intelligible, also, that the delusion should be shared by the Russians—for it is certainly a delusion to believe that in making war upon King Theodore the object of England is to conquer his country from him. Hitherto the conduct of the British Government in connection with Abyssinian affairs has been eminently candid and straightforward. The King's letter to Queen Victoria got suppressed through the negligence or carelessness of some official; but the original cause of our quarrel with Theodore has been made known, and from the time that matters first assumed a serious aspect every accessible scrap of information respecting the negotiations entered into for the release of the prisoners has been communicated to the public.

It is now about a year since the position of the captives in Abyssinia first met with serious attention from her Majesty's Government. For three years they had been kept in a state of confinement, which Colonel Sykes thinks may not have been very severe, but which was confinement all the same, without the least prospect of release. Lord Russell's endeavours to procure their liberation had had no result except that of causing the imprisonment of the Envoy who had been sent to demand that they should be set free. For, while forwarding the most flattering assurances of goodwill through Mr. Rassam, Lord Russell committed the unaccountable folly of publishing a despatch on Abyssinian affairs in the *London Gazette*, recommending the Consul to whom it was addressed to keep King Theodore at a distance, and to have as little as possible to do with his country. But, whatever provocation he may have received, it is evident that King Theodore could not be allowed to wreak his vengeance on innocent British subjects; and it became the duty of one Cabinet to liberate those who, through the carelessness and recklessness of another Administration, had been thrown into captivity. When, after the failure of several offers to purchase the liberty of the prisoners with valuable gifts (which King Theodore was unreasonable enough to require in advance), a resort to arms was at last decided upon, the Government put the public in possession of all that was known concerning the country which it was proposed to invade. The papers about Abyssinia moved for in the House of Commons last November include a general description of the country and of the different routes by which it can be entered; an outline of the nature of the Government, the religion and character of the inhabitants, the currency, the military system of the country, and the career and character of the Sovereign. A detailed account, too, is given of the routes leading from Massowah and Annesley Bay to Gondar and Magdala. The only point on which nothing is said is this very important one—the object of the expedition.

This silence may be explained in two ways. It may be thought that the object of the expedition is a matter of so much notoriety that to say one word about it would be superfluous. Or there may be an ulterior object which the Government, though they have not disavowed it—nor has it yet been formally attributed to them—may yet not care to avow. The *Times* has published several articles remonstrating with the Government, beforehand, on the intention it supposes it may entertain of seizing and holding a certain amount of territory in Abyssinia. We cannot believe that the designs of the Government go so far as that, though, according to French and Russian politicians, they go much farther. But between taking possession of Abyssinia or a large portion of Abyssinia and establishing a military and naval station at some favourable point on the Abyssinian coast, there is a great difference. What chiefly concerns us in that "Eastern question" with which we are now once more threatened, is security of communication between England and India, and a station on the Abyssinian coast might have the same sort of value for us that is claimed for Aden, on the opposite shore of the Red Sea.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY is still frequent in her visits to West Cowes and other places in the neighbourhood of Osborne. Her Majesty is generally accompanied by one or more members of the Royal family, and occasionally by some of the ladies and gentlemen in waiting; but her only guard, as a rule, consists of one or two outriders.

MR. THORNTON, C.B., the Minister appointed by the British Government to succeed the late Sir Frederick Bruce at Washington, left Liverpool last Saturday, on board the Cunard steamer *Siberia*. Mr. Thornton's family will remain for some time in England.

EX-PRESIDENT FILLMORE is writing "Personal and Political Recollections of his Administration of the American Government after the Death of President Taylor."

MR. GLADSTONE has declined an invitation to visit Sheffield for the purpose of addressing the people on public affairs. The right hon. gentleman states that, having recently declared his views to portions of his great constituency, he does not think it would be for the public advantage that at the present time he should reopen the discussion upon the same or similar questions.

MR. CHARLES LANYON, M.P. for Belfast, is to be knighted, on the representations of the Lord Lieutenant to the Premier. The same honour is to be conferred on Professor Wheatstone.

MR. ROBERT HARTWELL, Secretary of the Reform League, has offered himself as the working man's candidate for Lambeth at the ensuing general election.

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE of MANCHESTER announces that a sufficient sum has been collected to afford a comfortable provision for life for the widow of Sergeant Brett, murdered by the Fenians.

LORD BLOOMFIELD, British Ambassador at Vienna, has left Austria for Italy, the object of his Lordship's journey being, it is understood, to inquire into the political condition of the country.

MR. TRAILL retires from his position as police magistrate at Greenwich, and is to be succeeded (the *Times* says) by Mr. J. H. Patteson, son of the late Judge.

GOVERNMENT have at length taken measures to remove the danger which Daunt's Rock presents to vessels entering Queenstown Harbour. They have determined to blast it, so as to reduce it to 30 ft. below water-line.

MR. ROEBUCK, M.P., has just written a letter to the secretary of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce saying that he is now quite well and will be glad to attend at the forthcoming annual meeting of the chamber.

THE REV. W. ARNOT, of Edinburgh, formerly of Glasgow, has been chosen to succeed the late Rev. Dr. James Hamilton, of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, Regent-square.

DR. AMHERST, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Northampton, and his clergy have been frequently insulted by roughs, who pretend to confound them with Fenians.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE IRONMASTERS propose to reduce the wages of millmen 10 per cent and of puddlers one shilling per ton. The men, it is asserted, will strike, under advice from the South Staffordshire unions, if the masters persist in the reduction.

MR. HUTCHINSON, of Whitburn, writes to Mr. Lewis, the secretary of the National Life-boat Institution, denying that the Whitburn fishermen ever exhibit false lights. He says, "A more base, unfounded, and cruel charge could not be made. I have, as ship-agent, had the charge of nearly all the wrecks that have been on this coast for thirty years, and I believe there has never been such a thing as false lights."

AT PAU the thermometer has several times this winter been as low as 14 deg. Fahrenheit. There has been some good skating, and the frost has been so severe that birds have been frozen on the trees.

A GOVERNMENT INQUIRY into charges arising out of alleged mismanagement at the Wigan Workhouse, where a baby was recently scalded to death by an idiot nurse, has resulted in the governor of that establishment being called upon to resign.

SENATOR STEWART, of Nevada, has introduced into the United States Senate a bill to establish a national School of Mines.

MRS. YELVERTON (*née* Longworth) is once more before the Law Courts. She has raised an action before the Edinburgh Court of Session to set aside the judgments of the Scotch Courts and the House of Lords. She argues that the Scotch Courts had no jurisdiction, Major Yelverton never having had a Scotch domicile.

A NEW VOLCANO broke out in Nicaragua on Nov. 14 last, about eight leagues to the east of the city of Leon, on a crowded line of volcanoes running through the State parallel with the Pacific coast. The volcano was an active and interesting sight for sixteen days.

THE STRIKE in the IRON TRADE of SOUTH YORKSHIRE has terminated, the men going in upon the masters' terms.

MDME. CELESTE has retired from the Melbourne stage, which event took place at the Haymarket Theatre on Nov. 16. The house was a most brilliant one, and the leading members of the Theatre Royal company graciously offered their services.

SOME FRENCH CHEMISTS have discovered a way of increasing the lighting power of gas sixty-fold—viz., by putting in the flame a small cylinder of magnesia. The value of the discovery in regard to economy, will be understood when it is stated that it effects a saving of five sixths of the present cost.

FOUR LOCOMOTIVES will be shortly at work in Abyssinia upon the railway formed in connection with the English expeditionary force now in that country.

A GRAND AMATEUR CONCERT took place at Hawarden last Saturday night, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., being amongst the performers. The right hon. gentleman is not a bad amateur vocalist, and his musical efforts were rewarded with as much applause as his oratorical displays are wont to secure before popular assemblies.

ANOTHER CASE OF RATTENING in the notorious sawgrinders' union is reported to have taken place at Sheffield. It is stated that a party of three men early on Sunday morning with some "hands" in their hands and a shovel, as he supposed for the purpose of burying them. He attempted to stop the men, when a desperate fight took place, and eventually the men got off.

DON HENRY, brother of the King-Consort of Spain, has published a pamphlet which has caused some sensation in Madrid. In it the Queen's brother-in-law gives the Sovereign some advice founded upon certain facts connected with the private life of the Court, and concludes by imploring the Queen to save the country by dismissing the Ministry and boldly entering upon a liberal policy.

A PIER has just been finished on the shore below Killybeg, Ireland, where a small river empties itself into the sea. The men employed in removing the shingle to enlarge the accommodation came on an old cave, roofed, and full of tobacco. Some forty or fifty rolls were perfectly useless. It must have been upwards of twenty years buried, and, strange to say, it is at the spot where the fishing-boats are drawn up. Nobody seems to know anything respecting it.

AN EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON is reported from Niagara Falls. A strong wind so pressed back the waters of Lake Erie that the waters of the falls fell 20 ft. The American fall could be passed on foot. A great many curious and unsuspected rocks and holes were revealed, and the pit below the falls presented a wonderful appearance. Such a decline of the waters has never been known before.

AN OLD MAN NAMED COURTURIER, 103 years of age, died lately at Roche-la-Mollière (Loire) from the effects of the cold. He was well-to-do in the world, but so miserably that he denied himself common necessities; and when, upon being missed, his door was forced open, he was found extended on his bed with only an old goatskin for covering and frozen to death. He leaves several sons, the eldest of whom is more than eighty.

MR. INGRAM, the Queen's gardener at Windsor, after fifty-two years' service, is about to retire on a liberal pension. Mr. Ingram entered the Royal service, at Frogmore, in 1816, as gardener to Queen Charlotte, and continued his position, after the death of Queen Charlotte, during the residence of Princess Augusta at Frogmore House. In 1833 Mr. Ingram was appointed by William IV. to the superintendence of the whole of the Royal gardens. The present gardens were planned, formed, and brought to their high state of perfection by Mr. Ingram. He will be succeeded by Mr. Rose, gardener to the Duke of Roxburghe at Floors Castle.

THE PLAN of a RAILWAY connecting Dalmatia with the Brenner Pass has now been adopted, and arrangements have been made for completing the line by 1870. It is to pass from Fiume by St. Peter, Laibach, Villach, and Franzensfeste, where it will join the Brenner line. The construction of the railway would make Franzensfeste an important strategical point, and the Austrian Government has accordingly ordered the fortifications in the district surrounding it, especially those in the direction of the Pusterthal and of Brixen, to be considerably strengthened.

AN EDUCATION CONFERENCE, at Manchester, was opened on Wednesday morning, when Mr. Bruce, M.P., delivered the opening speech, in which he dealt at considerable length with the subject of compulsory education rating. Among those present were Earl De Grey, Mr. Forster, M.P.; Mr. Samuelson, M.P.; Mr. Bazley, M.P.; Mr. Hibbert, M.P.; Mr. Jacob Bright, M.P.; Mr. Dixon, M.P.; the Deans of Chester and Manchester, and eminent educationalists of all denominations.

MR. BIGELOW, late United States Minister to France, discovered in Paris, and took back with him to America, the original MS. of Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography, from which it appears that in the edition of 1817 large and many important portions of the original were omitted. Among other things not yet published is a graphic account of Franklin's negotiations with Lord Grenville and Lord Mansfield concerning the taxation of English proprietors in Pennsylvania, on his first visit to England as agent of that colony. Mr. Bigelow is going to prepare a complete edition of the Autobiography.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE *Spectator* of last week says, "We suppose Lord Malmesbury has abilities of some kind, or he would not have been Foreign Secretary." Is not this what the logicians call a *non sequitur*?—that is, not a necessary inference. Well, of course the man has some ability; no man is entirely without ability. But if the *Spectator* means some ability qualifying the noble Lord for the office which he held, clearly the logic of the remark is unsound, for the truth is that in selecting Ministers we rarely recognise the necessity for any qualifying ability; and as to special knowledge and ability to perform the duties of the post which the man is selected to fill, these are scarcely ever thought of, Mr. *Spectator*. Do you doubt this? Then just run your eye over the list of Ministers now in office. Now that General Peel and Lord Cranbourne are out, there are not more than two or three Ministers who have, or were ever supposed to have, any special qualification for the offices which they fill. Nay, on the whole perhaps, there never was such a list of dull mediocrities as this. Special abilities! Why, many of them have never shown any ability. Truth is that in selecting a Ministry, party exigencies and other considerations, quite away from special or common ability, rule and determine the selection. The Koran, as quoted by John Stuart Mill, says that "a ruler who appoints any man to an office when there is in his dominions another man better qualified for it, sins against God and the State." And if this be true, verily we are indeed miserable sinners; for this sin, denounced by the Koran, is, as the theologians say, our besetting sin. I have hinted at other considerations besides party exigencies. One of these I may half conceal and half reveal, under the well-known phrase—"the Government must do something for Mr. So-and-So." This was the consideration which induced Lord Derby to send Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald to Bombay, and Mr. Pope Hennessey to Labuan. And the worst of it is that party exigencies, or other circumstances apart from special qualifications, now rule appointments to the judicial bench. "Time was," a learned friend of mine tells me, "when the ablest man at the Bar, whether in the House of Commons or not, was pretty sure to get a judgeship; but now, unless you are in Parliament, you stand but little chance of promotion." And he says "that it was Lord Palmerston that began this pernicious custom of rewarding political adherents in the House with judgeships."

It is pretty clear now what will be the great question of the Session. We must pass the Irish and Scotch Reform Bills. We shall talk a great deal about Ireland—its Church, its land, its sins, and its wrongs—and perhaps initiate formal inquiries; though, for that matter, we have, Heaven knows, had inquiries enough; but I do not believe that we shall get further than that. But for the education of the people, we shall, I think, do something. Clearly that question has now got into the hands of strong, earnest men, who mean business. The leader, by common consent, will be Mr. Henry Austin Bruce. This gentleman was Vice-President of the Education Board of the Privy Council in the late Government, and has thoroughly mastered the subject. And, what is even better still, whilst contemplating the frightful ignorance of vast masses of the English people, he has got fired to a white heat of enthusiasm, to have something effectually done. Mr. Austin Bruce is, I dare say, unknown to many of my readers; for it is only within the last few years, though he came into the House in 1852, that he has appeared well above the horizon as a bright particular star. By-the-way, let me, before I part with him, mention that he married Norah, the youngest daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir William Napier, the eloquent historian of the Peninsular War; and, further, Mr. Bruce wrote the life of his father-in-law; and, if my readers have not seen that book, I advise them to get it and read it, for it is one of the most fascinating biographies that I ever read. Well, then, there is Mr. W. E. Forster, whose praises I need not chant, for they are in everybody's mouth. Next comes Mr. Stansfeld, one of the ablest administrators that ever stepped into a public office; Mr. Edward Baines, who has for years faithfully laboured in this cause; Professor Fawcett, whose speech, at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday night, produced quite a furor of enthusiasm; and last, not least, but in many respects greater than all, the Right Hon. Robert Lowe. Of course, I have not exhausted the roll. I simply close because time and space limit me to the enumeration of those who are at the moment prominently in my mind. It is a hopeful augury of success that the advocates of education are clearing the decks in preparation for action by throwing overboard their crotchets. This to me is very cheering. Forward, then, for a dead lift; and, please Heaven, we will have this dark reproach upon our name and fame once and for ever removed.

Mr. Smith, whom the Hon. Thomas Slingsby Duncombe's private secretary, awoke one morning, about two months ago, and found himself famous; three months ago he was known but to comparatively few people, and now his name is on the lips of thousands. I do not think, though, his fame, or call it notoriety, is very pleasant to him. I believe, indeed, he is very angry with the son of Mr. Duncombe for raking out the private correspondence between his father and his secretary; and it is a shame—a crime, indeed—showing that this young gentleman has no sense of the distinction between right and wrong, and is entirely devoid of true gentlemanly feeling. In the first place, he had no right to publish Mr. Smith's letters; and, secondly, he should have asked himself, "Would my father, if he could be consulted, wish me to print these letters?" But, though Mr. Smith must be excessively annoyed to see these letters in print, dealing with subjects often of a delicate character and obviously written off-hand, *currente calamo*, and without the remotest notion that they would ever be published, in justice to Mr. Smith, I must say that in reading them I have found nothing to compromise him. There is a good deal of clever diplomacy disclosed, and in the matter of the Duke of Brunswick's will something too much of a desire to get a share of his enormous property; but I see nothing dishonourable. Mr. Smith was long the custodian of an enormous amount of wealth, in notes, securities, and jewels; but when the time came, all were delivered up. The part of the book in which Mr. Smith appears is interesting enough, and will be not a little astonishing to those who know nothing about Mr. Smith and his career. To me it is not so astonishing, for I have known something of Mr. Smith and his history for some years; knew that he was Duncombe's private secretary, and held office of some sort in the French Emperor's service, and was frequently in personal communication with his Imperial Majesty, talking with him face to face; and that occasionally Mr. Smith sported a gold snuffbox, with the portrait of his Imperial Majesty set in pearls, enamelled on the lid. Mr. Smith was in attendance upon the Empress when she was in London, and, at her Majesty's request, dispatched to the Emperor, as a present, a splendidly-got-up "Aunt Sally." "Aunt Sally," under the patronage of the Duke of Beaufort, was then in fashion. And I have myself seen Mr. Smith galloping on the heights of Boulogne superintending military barracks-works there, and evidently in his Imperial Majesty's confidence. I have, too, heard privately repeated conversations between Mr. Smith and his Imperial Majesty; but, as the narrators had no thought of my publishing them, I shall not follow Mr. Duncombe's bad precedent by reproducing them here. In short, unremarkable as Mr. Smith looks as he rides down Rotten-row on his tall bay horse, he is really a remarkable man, whose diary, if he has kept one, may some century hence, if it should come to light, be very interesting reading, and even elucidate some of the movements of the third Napoleon.

Have you been to view Doré's great pictures now being exhibited at the Egyptian Hall? If not, don't lose a moment in giving yourself a great treat. To those who are not conversant with Doré's varied productions, it may seem that the talk about him and his powers lately is rather overdone; but such is not the case. Of course, no one will pretend that every work of M. Doré is a masterpiece; but I am certain that the more one sees of his productions the more must one marvel at his extraordinary facility of execution as well as brilliant powers of conception. The three pictures at the Egyptian Hall are utterly different in character, and yet are all admirable. The one, perhaps, which will be least popular with the bulk of visitors is most peculiarly Doréesque in character. It

represents Virgil and Dante in the frozen circle of the Inferno, where they encounter Count Ugolino, who betrayed Pisa to the Florentines, horribly gnawing the skull of Archbishop Ruggieri, who is said to have shut up the Count and his four children in a tower and starved them all to death. Even in Hades the spirit of vengeance is unquenchable, and the struggle between the foes results in their emergence from under the ice at the moment the poets approach. Virgil looks calmly on, as becomes an inhabitant of the spirit world; while Dante, still amenable to the emotions of earth, is full of fear, caution, and horror. The subject of this painting is decidedly revolting; but as to the style in which it is handled, there cannot be two opinions. The next picture, "Jephthah's Daughter," is founded on Judges xi. 37. The two months allowed to the Israelitish maiden to bewail her untimely fate have expired; and she and "her fellows" are discovered at sunrise on the day of doom, sitting on a hill-top, almost unconscious of the day-dawn, in meditation and woe. The grouping of the figures and the management of the light as it falls upon their varied costumes are very striking. The picture of the series which will attract most attention is probably "Le Tapis Vert"—Life at Baden-Baden. Around an oblong green-covered table crowd a heterogeneous mob of gamblers, male and female, old and young, among whom almost every conceivable variety of feature and expression is visible. The imperturbable dealer of the cards, who has just turned up the ace of hearts and is uttering his usual stereotyped "*noir perd et la rouge gagne*," and the croupier, rake in hand, who turns round his strongly-marked face to speak to the gaudily-dressed damsel at his back, are, we believe, well-known characters. The other figures, probably, represent notorious habitués of the German gambling-houses. There, in the centre, sits a damsel of the Jewish persuasion, cool and collected, with her hand resting on a confused heap of gold and bank-notes, which she has either won or is prepared to risk. Her left-hand neighbour, whose fair hair and delicate complexion contrast strongly with the dark locks and swarthy skin of the Jewess, is eagerly bent, by aid of her eye-glass, on discovering the state of affairs. Still further to the left, in the crowd back from the table, is a tall sandy-bearded gentleman, examining his record of the run of fortune; while in his immediate vicinity is an individual of the "good old Englishman" type, intently engaged in reckoning up the gold coins in his hand. At the other end of the table is an ancient dame, with thin, sharp, keen, screwed-up features, who, no doubt, has risked and lost many bundles of notes and rouleaux of gold in her time, but is now reduced to betting with the "pale and common drudge," silver, of which she has but a scanty store. In the old lady's rear is a gentleman of the Dundreary expression of visage, who is either chicken-hearted or has been "plucked," but in whose ear a syren, in sombre attire and "pork-pie" hat, is whispering words of encouragement—probably inciting him, in fact, to another effort, or endeavouring to induce him to supply the funds with which she may make a trial of luck. These are only a few of the many characteristic and strikingly-drawn figures that crowd the canvas—every one of whom display either bustling eagerness, intense interest, or the apathy of despair. Not the least remarkable feature of this painting is the admirably perfect manner in which the draperies of the female figures are rendered. All is finished with the nicest care; yet nothing is overdone, though several of the ladies are palpably and intentionally overdressed. I spent a delighted hour the other day gazing at these pictures, and I am sure so would you and all who choose to pay a visit to the small gallery at the Egyptian Hall.

A very curious and interesting series of photographs illustrative of the remains of the Seven Churches of Asia is now on exhibition at the rooms of the Arundel Society, 24, Old Bond-street. The artist is Mr. Svaboda, of the Royal Academy of Venice; and the scenes he has depicted have never been taken before. Among the fifty photographs of which the collection consists are views illustrative of the present state of Smyrna, Ephesus, Laodicea, Philadelphia, Sardis, Thyatira, Pergamos, and the adjacent sites of interest. There are also photographs of the monument of Sesostris, Niobe of Mount Syphilus, Magnesia of Syphilus, Magnesia of Meander, Aphrodisias, Hieropolis, &c. The series thus combines illustrations of scenes interesting in both sacred and classic story; and, as the photographs are admirably executed, it is well worth one's while to pay a visit to the gallery, which is, besides, replete with objects of artistic and archaeological note. It is curious to observe that, whereas utter ruin and desolation reign where once stood Ephesus, Laodicea, and other places of eminence, Smyrna is a thriving, prosperous, and busy entrepôt of commerce, as is evidenced by the extent of the town, which, I believe, at this moment numbers about 200,000 inhabitants, as well as by the crowd of vessels of all sorts in the harbour.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Contemporary Review*, in the new number, seems to have begun a career more strictly answering to its title: the topics are chiefly fresh ones. A striking paper on "Rome at the Close of 1867" reiterates, what we have already had from so many sources, that in spite even of the French and of the Chassepot rifles, Garibaldi was not defeated even at the close of the day of Mentana; the proof of which is that the Papal forces remained upon the ground and sent for reinforcements, instead of pursuing the Garibaldians. The most entertaining article of all is that by Mr. H. R. Haweis, on "Music in England." It is delightful reading, and I must really quote one anecdote from it:—

At a time when Schubert was known here only by a few songs, Mendelssohn brought over the magnificent symphony in C (lately performed at the Crystal Palace), together with his own "Ruy Blas" overture in MS. The parts of Schubert's symphony were distributed to the band. Mendelssohn was ready at his desk—the bâton rose—the romantic opening was taken—but after the first few lines signs of levity caught the master's eye. He closed the score; the gentlemen of the band evidently considered the music rubbish, and, amidst some tittering, collected the parts, which were again deposited in the portfolio. "Now for your overture, Herr Mendelssohn!" was the cry. "Pardon me!" replied the indignant composer, with all calm; and, taking up his hat, he walked out of the room. "Ruy Blas" went back to Germany, but the lesson was not soon forgotten.

The general public little know how noble a fellow Mendelssohn was. He has always impressed me as being one of the finest creatures God ever made "a little lower than the angels." Mr. Haweis is a writer who must be read with care; he has no pomposity, or "style," and his matter, always excellent, is often far above his manner. Mr. Reginald Stuart Poole's essay on the Talmud question will, apart from distinctive merits of its own, have some interest for readers of this column who may happen to remember the terms in which I rapidly touched upon the same topic a few weeks ago. But I cannot accept the second of the three articles of Mr. Poole's summary of "results"—namely, "The Jewish Origin of Modern Social Virtues"—unless I am permitted to add that modern social life is deeply interwoven with *sentiments* which are clearly at war with the Hebrew conception of certain social virtues, as those virtues now exist embodied in British, and especially in English, institutions. What is to be done with those sentiments? When a sufficiently sensitive person reads, say, modern German or Danish literature, he becomes aware of a way of thinking about love-matters which has the charm of an auroral purity, but which is not only absent from all Jewish writings (without exception), but at variance with the "note" that is struck in Jewish writings. It is hypocrisy to ignore this; yet it is always ignored. And when this charm of auroral purity has fascinated the mind, we inevitably feel that, in all that relates to love, the "note" which we hear struck in (say) ancient Scandinavian records is more germane to us than the other "note." Mr. Poole says his task in this article has been a hard one. I should like to give him another—namely, to satisfy an obstinately truthful mind that, with all the inferiorities and brutalities of life among the ancient Scandinavians, the position of woman was not substantially higher and more hopeful with them than it is in Great Britain at this hour. One of the critics of the *Quarterly's* "Talmud" paper, after quoting some expressions about husband and wife to which parallels may be found in the literature of every nation that ever had a literature, inquired, "What becomes now of the Teutonic origin of the house-

hold virtues?" But it is not "household virtues" that are in question. The question is, where shall we find, in any Jewish writings, a way of treating these topics which gives us the same exhilarating and ennobling emotions as we derive from the way in which they are touched in (say) Tieck, Novalis, or Uhland?

Mr. Swinburne, with his usual courage, has in the *Fortnightly* addressed a very beautiful ode—"Ave atque Vale"—to Charles Baudelaire. I have not read Baudelaire; but the *Pal Mall Gazette* suggests to us all that he has been, probably, a good deal misrepresented; and certainly an answer of his to a man who was disputing the immortality of the soul is admirable—"Very good; your soul is, perhaps, not immortal, but I am sure mine is." The whole of this number of the *Fortnightly* is particularly attractive. Read, by all means, Mr. J. C. Morrison's "Ireland for the British," a most courageous paper, and Mr. George Meredith's candid review of, what appears to be, a highly curious poem entitled "Saint Paul" by F. H. Myers. The notice is equally honourable to Mr. Meredith and Mr. Myers. Mr. Albert V. Dicey once more calls attention to the fact, so common a topic with Mr. Mill, that the "Legal Boundaries of Liberty" are in reality undefined in England, and that the popular notions upon the general question are even contemptibly stupid. But I cannot follow Mr. Dicey, any more than other public writers who have said the same thing, in his criticism of Mr. Baron Bramwell's dictum on the picketing question. It seemed to me not only good law, but sound common sense and strict justice. It is clearly wrong for "two or more persons to combine to influence others by black looks," if the "black looks" are directed towards him in such a way that they must, in the nature of things, limit his freedom. If twenty men agreed to withdraw, with "black looks," from a room into which Mr. Gladstone voluntarily went, or to remain in the room, with black looks, supposing he remained there voluntarily (and supposing he and the twenty men had precisely equal rights to be present), there would be no offence against natural justice, and none against the law. But if two men were to agree to waylay Mr. Gladstone with black looks, or stand opposite his house with black looks, so that he could not avoid the black looks, except by some sacrifice of his own convenience, they would clearly be guilty of conspiracy in law and gross injustice in morals. Indeed, the casuistry of the whole question appears to me to be perfectly easy. In other respects, Mr. Dicey's article is, I think, most admirable.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Byron promises to take as high a position as a writer of domestic dramas as Mr. Robertson has as a writer of original comedies. Mr. Byron's dramas and Mr. Robertson's comedies have many good points in common. There is a pleasant freshness about the dialogue of both authors that is as rare in its way as the talent of constructing a good plot—a talent, by-the-way, that neither Mr. Robertson nor Mr. Byron appears to possess in any remarkable degree. Their characters are all types, and, for the most part, they are unalloyed types; although this remark does not altogether apply to the principal part in Mr. Byron's newest drama, "Dearer than Life," at the QUEEN'S. The piece is not remarkable for originality in design or neatness in construction; the incidents are of a safe, old kind; and the story bears, generally, a strong similarity to "The Porter's Knot." The construction, moreover, is loose; and the first and second acts are needlessly divided. The action of the second act is an immediate sequel to that of the first, and takes place in the same room; and it is difficult to understand why the act-drop should be lowered between them. Some of the incidents are highly improbable, and the hero of the piece is an unmitigated young blackleg, who is obliged to leave the country to avoid a prosecution for forgery. These are the principal drawbacks to the piece. On the other hand, the play is capably written, the characters are consistently drawn throughout, and the interest of the audience is legitimately sustained to the very fall of the curtain. Mr. Byron has wisely fought against a tendency to punning, which asserted itself rather strongly in some of his earlier dramas, and the sparkle of the dialogue is derived from purely legitimate sources. I hold, in spite of the *Saturday Review* and the *Athenæum*, that a good pun is a capital thing in its way and in its proper sphere of action; but it is as much out of place in a drama as a breakdown. Mr. Toole's Michael Garner is one of those quaint homely characters, alternately broadly comic and broadly pathetic, with which his name has of late years become principally identified. In its main characteristics it is very like his parts in "Through Fire and Water" and "Dot;" it is indebted for any originality rather to the incidents with which it is surrounded than to any marked deviation from the beaten track in the character itself. That it is admirably played by Mr. Toole, all who have seen him in any one of this class of parts will be prepared to admit. He is excellently supported by Mr. Irving, who plays a betting gent of the Champagne-Charley breed, with a great deal of quiet power. Mr. Irving is an admirable "cad;" he marks the character strongly, but he never over-colours it. Mr. Brough has made a great "hit" with the character of a drunken old vagabond, who, by-the-way, has been unjustly quoted in two or three journals as a copy of Eccles, in "Caste." The drunken old vagabond in "Dearer than Life" has nothing in common with Eccles beyond his being a drunkard. Mr. Wyndham plays the hero of the piece, and plays it extremely well. Miss Hodson has a small but very pretty part, and does it full justice. This young lady has immensely improved since her engagement at the Prince of Wales's. Miss H. Everard in a small part—that of a termagant landlady—is simply perfect. Mr. Seyton and Mrs. Dyas also contribute to the success of the piece. Altogether, I have seldom seen a domestic drama in which the interest is so well sustained through three long acts as in "Dearer than Life," and just now there is not a more evenly acted piece at any metropolitan theatre. It is probable that its run will be a long one.

"Old Salt" is the title of a pretty little domestic drama, by a gentleman who is known under the pseudonym of "John Daly," and produced at the STRAND last Saturday. It is not marked by any originality in its story: its incidents are of a familiar type, and the author has not taken much pains about its construction; but the story is prettily, if not artistically, told; and it affords Mr. Emery and Miss Nelly Moore an opportunity of appearing in characters for which they are respectively admirably fitted. Mr. Emery plays Old Salt, a retired ship's captain, who has brought up his granddaughter in ignorance of her father's name; and she turns out, eventually, to be the heiress to one half of a valuable estate, being, for some reason or other, made coheir with a cousin, who has always imagined that she is the only claimant to the estate. The dénouement is brought about clumsily enough; but the characters of the old ship's captain and his pretty granddaughter are nicely drawn, and capably acted. Mr. James, whose successes have hitherto been identified, for the most part, with burlesque of the broadest description, fairly astonished his audience by playing a semi-pathetic part with great good taste and delicacy of feeling. Mr. James has it in his power to make a more important advance in his profession by a single part of this description than by half a century of burlesque "breakdowns." Any donkey, who can do nothing else, can dance a breakdown; but an actor must have a touch of the artist in him to play a semi-pathetic part as judiciously as Mr. James played his in "Old Salt." The little piece was fairly successful, and the author was only prevented by his absence in Calcutta from bowing his acknowledgments to an enthusiastic audience.

"Humbly" has been withdrawn from the ROYALTY bills after an inglorious career, and "All that Glitters is not Gold" has taken its place, with Miss Carlotta Addison in the principal character. Mr. Halliday has a three-act drama, called "A Cruel Kindness," in rehearsal at this theatre.

A new "operatic extravaganza" on "The Daughter of the Regiment," called "La Vivandière; or, True to the Corps," by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, will be played at the QUEEN'S on Wednesday next. A new comediotta, by Mr. T. J. Williams, precedes the LYCEUM pantomime this evening. The pantomime at this house is now in good working order, and the addition of a magnificent magic fountain to the transformation scene materially increases its beauty.



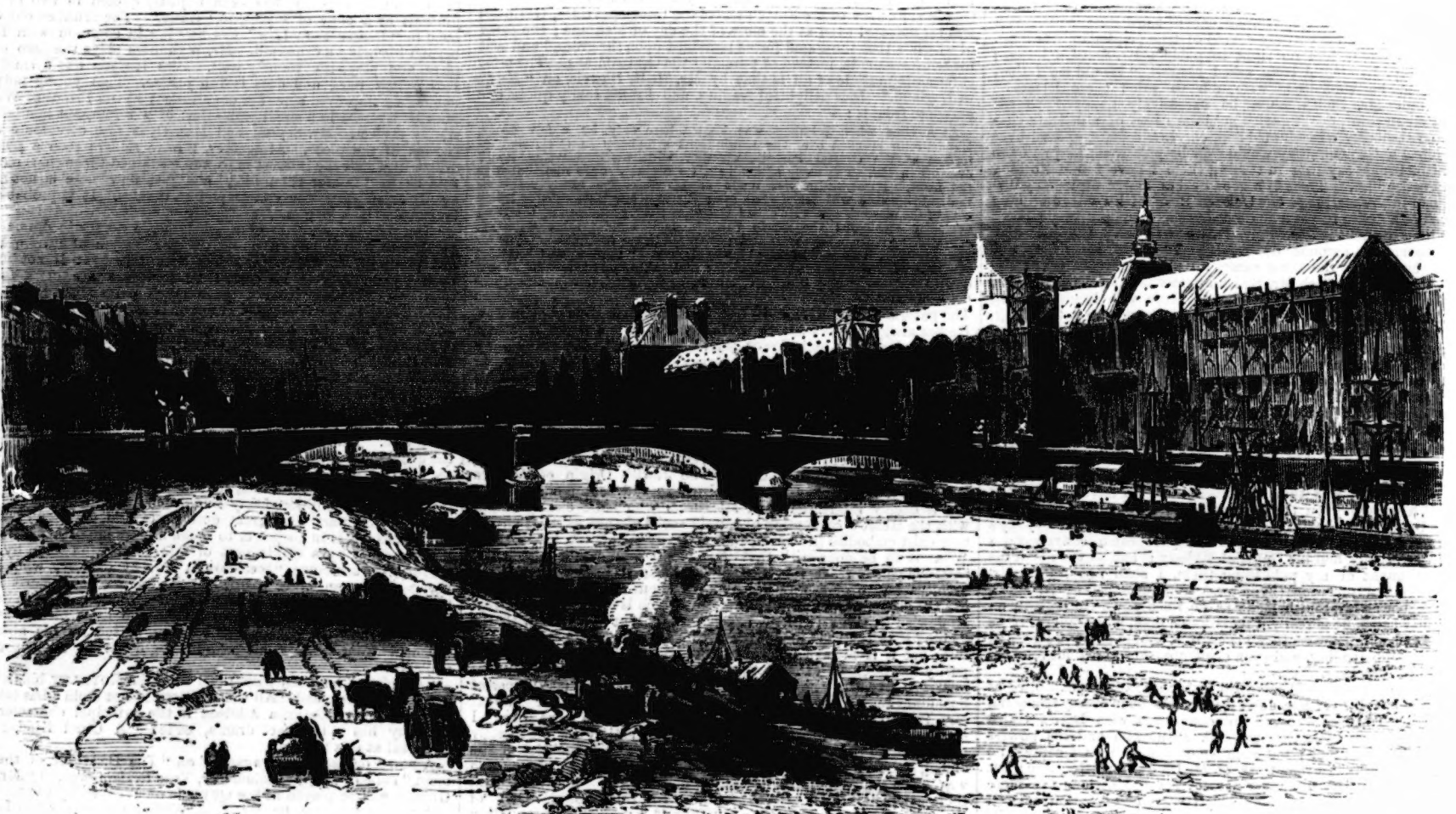
A MATCH-MAKING AMONG THE IRISH PRASANTRY.

SWEARING IN THE LONDON IRISH VOLUNTEERS AS SPECIAL CONSTABLES.

LAST Saturday evening several hundred members of the London Irish Volunteer Corps assembled at Somerset House and marched, without arms, but headed by the regimental band, to the vestry-hall of St. Martin's to be sworn in as special constables for the preservation of the public peace. Major Warde was in command, and with him were Captain and Adjutant Daubeny, and Captains O'Connor, Purcell, Fowler, and Tate, and Dr. West, the hon. surgeon of the regiment, as well as other officers. When the volunteers had been formed into close column of sections in the large school-room attached to the vestry, Mr. Flowers, the magistrate of Bow-street, who was about to administer the oath, made a short address to those assembled. He said he was exceedingly pleased to have the duty of

enrolling so many Irishmen as protectors of law and order in this country, and he knew of nothing which could have a better effect, not only throughout the country, but in that country from which they came, and which was loved as much by Englishmen as by Irishmen. He did not know what the feelings of some people might be, but this he knew, there was an old saying in England that when anything was done against law and order and good feeling, it was pronounced to be "un-English," and he felt assured that those present would agree with him when he said that when persons were acting contrary to the principles of law and order their actions should be called "un-Irish" as well as un-English. In his opinion there was as much freedom in Ireland as in England; and if there were some wrongs to redress there was a way to redress them identical with that existing in England. He therefore

held that those who committed acts of violence under the pretence that they were redressing wrongs were acting in an un-Irish manner. He had ever heard the Irish people spoken of as a generous people, and he believed that a more generous people than the Irish did not exist, and a generous people was always a forgiving people. He drew attention to this that he might urge the Irish people of to-day to maintain this high and noble characteristic of their race by showing that if the England of bygone times did wrongs to Ireland, the people of Ireland of this generation were not so un-Irish as to remember those wrongs. It was said that there were—he would not say Irishmen—but some persons, who wished to see the dismemberment of this great empire. This wish, if fulfilled, let Irishmen remember, however little it would make the British Empire, would make Ireland less. But he felt sure there was one feeling



WINTER IN PARIS: THE SEINE DURING THE FROST.—SEE PAGE 26.



SWearing in MEMBERS OF THE LONDON IRISH VOLUNTEER CORPS AS SPECIAL CONSTABLES.



COLLISION AT SEA: THE SCHOONER GEORGE RUN INTO BY THE STEAM-SHIP ANGLIA, OFF NEWARP LIGHTSHIP.

throughout the land, and that was that all classes should work together for the general good, and this unity would place us in the van of civilised Europe. The swearing-in was then gone on with, and the proceedings closed with loud and prolonged cheers for the Queen. Mr. J. G. Stillwell, one of the county magistrates; and Lieutenant-Colonel Warde, of the London Rifle Brigade, were present, with many other gentlemen.

FATAL COLLISION AT SEA.

OUR Engraving represents a sad event which happened off Newarp light-ship on the 30th ult. On the steam-ship Anglia arriving at Dundee from London, Captain Speedie, the master, reported that when near the Newarp light-ship he observed a schooner bearing down on him. He did everything he could to avert a collision; but the schooner made no attempt to get out of the way, and came into contact with the Anglia. The result was that the schooner received a severe concussion, and sank immediately, portions of her masts and rigging falling on the deck of the steamer. No sound was heard for some time, but ultimately the voice of a man crying for help was heard. A boat was lowered with all dispatch, and one of the crew of the schooner, Joseph Edwards, a black, was picked up in an exhausted condition. He quickly recovered, however. He stated that the vessel to which he belonged was the George, of Bridgewater, Wales, and was manned by a crew of six in addition to the master. He said that the master of the schooner mistook the steamer for the Newarp light-ship, and was not able to relieve himself from the difficulty into which he had fallen until it was too late. The six men were drowned. The schooner was laden with pig-iron, and was bound from Middlesbrough to Cardiff.

Our Engraving is from a sketch made by a passenger on board the Anglia at the time of the melancholy occurrence.

AN IRISH MATCH-MAKING.

THE sentimental preliminaries which usually precede marriage-making in England are, on the whole, totally unknown to the class of agriculturists between whom and the landlord stands the "middle-man" in Ireland. The sons and daughters of this well-defined section of the population are accustomed, from immemorial habit and tradition, to conduct their love affairs vicariously. Pat seldom, if ever, confesses his liking for Kathleen until some old crone ventures to suggest to him, with a characteristic deference for professional etiquette, that Kathleen is "the jewel of a girl," and that the sun is bound to shine on the "boy" who may see her lifted over his threshold. Kathleen, in the mean time, has to be coaxed (her modest reluctance always suggesting some new difficulty) into the belief that, of all living men, the man who aspires to the honour of her hand is the handsomest, likeliest, and most provident "crathur" that ever stepped in two shoes or lit a candle at his mother's wakin'. By a variety of devices, each rivaling each in feminine ingenuity and astuteness, the parish gossip, better known as the match-maker, contrives to establish an impatient sort of curiosity between the family of the colleen and the family of the swain who is about to enter on the responsibilities of matrimony. The two families manage to meet, and the debate that ensues as to the dower of the intended bride, and the ability of the intended bridegroom to do the best with it, is often productive of the most ludicrous disagreements. The writer was present at one of those family councils, and he can vouch for the substantial truth of the following:—

The room in which the friends of the young couple met was gaily lighted up for the occasion. The sweethearts were surrounded by their friends; and the old match-maker, who had a personal interest in the result of the family deliberations, moved nervously to and fro, now offering a pinch of snuff, now pressing some one to finish his glass, and anon snuffing the candles.

At a table removed from the others, the friends and relatives of the intended couple sat apart. They remained deep in consultation, sipping punch occasionally, jesting, smiling, but keeping throughout a keen eye to the business in hand. Pat, at the opposite end of the room, with a mixed expression of daring and bashfulness, wanted Kathleen to sit beside him; the damsel declined; and it was not until she was pushed bodily to his side, in playful glee, that she honoured him with her company.

"We must have the feather-bed!" exclaimed Pat's father, his voice ringing to the roof. "Shure you wouldn't deny the childer that comfort?"

"Comfort, anyah!" replied Kathleen's sire. "Is it gukes you'd be makin' of them at a hand's turn? Ne'er an inch of the bed you'll find me partin' wid!"

"Well, there's always two words to a bargain," suggested a dispassionate relative. "There's no harm done, anyhow: if you don't like it, don't hev' it; and there's an ind of it."

"Wisha! you fools," exclaimed the match-maker at this moment, "to break the childer's hearts for a handful of feathers. There's my own bed at home, ten stone if there's a quill's skin in it; and sure they're welcome to it body and bones, sooner than the purty couple should die of the famish of separation."

"Troth, Moll," observed Pat's father, "you were always a hand at the 'comoverin'; you'd stale the eye out of a live linnet before he'd miss it. There, boys, I'll buy the bed and let Kate's father throw in the blankets."

"May I lose my tongue if I say no!" replied the person to whom this delicate suggestion was tendered. "Blankets, and sheets, and boulster, too; I'll not be outdone by you in generosity."

After this preamble the business of the evening was brought to a close. The lovers, if people who had rarely seen each other before can be called so, were congratulated by all present. The whiskey circulated, the pipes were lighted, and the fiddler, who had been waiting for the critical moment, slipped in, and rasped off the first bars of a genuine "moneyeen." In less than a minute twenty feet were keeping time to the melody. The dance grew fast and furious, neighbours swarmed in to take their part in the jubilee, and that day week saw Pat and Kathleen the handsomest married pair in the parish of Doonas.

CRUELTY TO A CHILD.—A wealthy farmer, Mr. Joseph Hankins, and his wife, who live at Almely, in Herefordshire, have been heavily fined (including costs, £8 19s. 6d.) for assaulting and beating Sarah Ann Baker, a child twelve years old, who was taken by them out of the Weoley Workhouse in March last. The child, in giving evidence, said that during hay-making time Mr. Hankins beat her with a horse-whip, and left severe marks. At apple-picking, he again beat her with a riding-whip, cut her head against the stair-post, made her nose bleed, and she had run away from him six times through his cruelty. On another day he pulled her hair, kicked her on the hip, and knocked her over the pump trough. During haymaking time Mrs. Hankins struck her on the head with a shoebrush and made the blood flow. She then cut her across the shoulders with a holly stick. Another time her mistress put her to bed, and beat her with a lady's riding-whip. Her son, Charles Hankins, had beat her with a birch in an indecent manner; his mother had told him to do so. Sarah Ann Morgan swore that she saw the child put in the pump trough, and Hankins was going to pump on her.

DEATH BY SUFFOCATION.—On Monday Dr. Lankester held an inquest on the body of James Digby, aged fifty-seven, a night watchman. The deceased left his home, 3, Salisbury-street, Lisson-grove, shortly after five o'clock on Tuesday evening week, for the purpose of carrying out his duty as night watchman on the works now in progress of the St. John's-wood Railway, and was described to be a very sober man. One of the employes on the line saw the deceased in his box soon after his arrival, and he then appeared quite well. It was a miserably cold night, and deceased had in his box a coke fire in a pan, and outside he kept a little dog that gave him notice of the approach of any one. The watchbox was 7 ft. long, 6 ft. broad, and 8 ft. high. After five the next morning he again went to the box, and found the doors closed, and, getting no answer to his knockings, he broke open one of the doors, and then saw the deceased lying calmly on the form, with a lime-bag under and a large hairy cap on his head. Dr. Allen was then sent for, as deceased was insensible, and Digby was pronounced dead. Dr. Allen said deceased had fastened the doors, and two air-holes he had covered with sacks. There were, however, two other holes at the top of the box, but they were insufficient to allow the gas which was produced to escape. Having described the internal appearance of the body, he said that the cause of death was suffocation through the inhalation of poisonous gases proceeding from his own body and from the coke fire. A verdict of "Death from the inhalation of poisonous gases" was recorded.

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND NATIONAL DEFENCE.

THE first meeting of the Institute of Civil Engineers after the Christmas recess was held on Tuesday evening, when Mr. Charles Hutton Gregory, the newly-elected president, delivered an inaugural address on taking the chair.

After referring to the progressive development of the institution during the fifty years it had been established, and quoting from Tredgold's previous unpublished description of the nature and objects of civil engineering, Mr. Gregory proceeded to show how engineering was applicable to the purposes of national defence. Till a recent period the construction of firearms was carried on by small manufacturers, who each made a separate part; and it was not till the year 1852 that the establishment of a manufactory at Thames-bank, for the production of arms in large quantities by machinery, was effected. In the following year Mr. John Anderson, M. Inst. C.E., engineer to the Board of Ordnance, proposed a Government manufactory for the construction of small-arms on the same principle, and this resulted in the establishment of the Small-arm Factory at Enfield in 1857, which had proved most successful. It was stated that the average cost of the long Enfield rifles had been about £2 each, and of the short Enfields £2 14s. each; while the cost of converting the Snider breech-loader was about 16s. 3d. per arm. The Enfield factory was stated to be capable of turning out about 130,000 new arms annually. Mr. Gregory next alluded to the production of heavy armour plates. The immunity from injury of the French iron-cased floating batteries engaged at Kinburn first drew the attention of the public in that direction; but the subject was too complicated, by considerations of a technical character, for purely military or naval authorities, and a special mixed committee was appointed in 1861 to investigate the whole subject. As the committee adopted the principle of making all their trials and results open to legitimate inspection, great progress was made, and whereas it was difficult to obtain reliable armour plates more than 3 in. thick in 1861, strong plates 5 in. thick and upwards could be produced in 1864; and at the present time some English manufacturers offered to roll plates 20 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and 15 in. thick. In the middle of the year 1864 the iron-plate committee was dissolved; but another Government committee on iron plates had recently been temporarily appointed, comprising the same civil members, the subject of their investigation being the application of iron plates to land forts. The increase in the size and the strength of guns had been equally remarkable. For many years before the Crimean War brass and iron guns had been made with very little change of form, although there were in existence compound guns of an early date. Among the designs then brought forward were the Horsfall wrought-iron gun and the Mallet mortar. But the battle of the guns was between Sir W. G. Armstrong, C.B., M. Inst. C.E., and Mr. Whitworth, M. Inst. C.E. The chief points of difference were that, while the Armstrong gun was built up of coiled wrought-iron tubes, shrunk over one another and over a steel lining, with small grooves to take a soft-coated projectile, the Whitworth gun consisted of tubes of mild steel, forced with a taper over one another, and over a steel lining, the bore being polygonal, with a mechanically-fitting projectile. The gun now generally manufactured for the service had a smaller number of parts, and outer coils of Staffordshire fibrous iron were substituted for coils of the best Yorkshire iron. This change had diminished the cost of production by 35 or 40 per cent, while the gun was equally strong. Prior to the mechanical improvements which had led up to the present rifled gun, the greatest range attained by shot from a smooth-bore gun was not much over 6000 yards; but with the modern ordnance projectiles had been thrown over 10,000 yards, and the guns of the service made good practice at 6000 yards; at the same time, the mean error of direction and of range had been reduced within narrow limits. Mr. Gregory observed with respect to the advance made in naval construction, that the Warrior and the Hercules afforded examples of the earliest and the most recent types of armour-clad ships. The former vessel, constructed in 1860, was, however, only protected amidships by armour 4½ in. thick, the ends being divided into water-tight compartments, and the guns could be trained through an arc of not more than 50 deg. or 60 deg. Subsequently, in the Agincourt class, the whole vessel was plated with armour; but the increasing power of guns had rendered it necessary to adopt the principle of a limited protected battery amidships, shut in by armour-plated bulkheads, with a belt of armour for the whole length of the vessel in the neighbourhood of the water-line. This in the Hercules was 9 in. thick, diminishing to 6 in. above the port-sill. The Hercules also had protected batteries at the bow and stern; and the foremost and aftermost gun on each broadside could be traversed on turntables, so as to be fired at an angle of 15 deg. with the line of the keel. The Navy now possessed thirty-one iron-clad ships, and eight more were on the stocks. Railways had an important bearing on modern warfare, and were of great service in the war in Lombardy in 1859, and in the German war of 1866. The experience of the latter war had proved that 10,000, equipped for the field, were the most that could be moved per day on a single railway. During the American civil war 20,000 men and over 1000 animals were moved, in January, 1865, from the Tennessee River to the Potomac, a distance of nearly 1500 miles, in about eleven days, notwithstanding it was a severe American winter. The labours of the construction corps organised by the United States authorities were extraordinary. They had kept in repair a length of 2105 miles of railway, and had constructed bridges in a marvellously short time. Among numerous instances he would mention the Potomac Creek Bridge, 414 ft. long and 82 ft. high, which had been built in forty working hours. The keeping open of General Sherman's communications in his march from Chattanooga to Atlanta by the Military Railway Department was a wonderful example of energy. In our own country the Engineer and Railway Volunteer Staff Corps, established in 1865, and commanded by Mr. Bidder, Past President Inst. C.E., had already made some valuable reports on problems prepared by the Government, which showed that the resources of our railway system could enable the whole regular and irregular army of the country to be moved upon any required line of defence within a few days. In conclusion, Mr. Gregory urged the importance of encouraging private manufactures, as by such a course the spirit of enterprise would be kept up. He also pointed out the unprotected state of some of our dockyards and ports, and suggested that perhaps small forts, capable of resisting a sudden attack, would be best for the purpose of defence, while it might be desirable to construct a class of vessels to be specially devoted to protect our coasts.

REMOVAL OF CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOL.—The sale and transfer of the present schoolhouse of Charterhouse, and the lands and buildings connected therewith, having recently been effected by the governors of the Hospital of King James to the masters and wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company, in pursuance of the powers granted by the Act of Parliament passed last Session, entitled the Charterhouse School Act, 1867, the work of demolition and transformation of this ancient foundation has already commenced.

"SUNDAYS FOR THE PEOPLE."—The question raised at Bow-street last March with respect to the legality of certain entertainments at St. Martin's Hall, Long-acre, called "Sunday Evenings for the People," came up again on Tuesday before Sir Thomas Henry. The building having been pulled down, and the new Queen's Theatre erected on its site, Sir Thomas thought there was an end of the case; but the information, it appears, was persisted in for the purpose of trying the legality of such Sunday entertainments. With this view, a nominal fine was inflicted and a case for the Court of Queen's Bench agreed to.

THE IRISH AND POOR RATES.—The Irish appear to receive a large share of the poor rates levied in the metropolis, and relieving officers observe many peculiarities which distinguish them from English recipients of relief. The south-eastern relief district of the parish of St. Pancras contains about 2500 of the 7000 outdoor poor in that parish, and about three fifths of them are found to be Irish, or of Irish parentage, and the relieving officers state that very soon after an Irish labourer is thrown out of work he goes to the relief office and boldly asks for relief, stating that he is out of work, and when visited at home is found in most cases not to have parted with a single article of clothing or furniture; on the other hand, when an English labourer is thrown out of work it is generally found that he has not applied for parish relief till he has parted with nearly every article of clothing and furniture.

MR. H. A. BRUCE, M.P., ON EDUCATION.

MR. H. A. BRUCE, M.P., was present on Monday night at the distribution of prizes to the students connected with the Bury Athenaeum, and delivered an address on the subject of education. Admitting the perfect justice of the compulsory system, he asked:—

Is it advisable? Lord John Manners, the other day, in noticing this subject, spoke of it with great indignation as a measure in the highest degree derogatory to the dignity of every true-born Briton. "And it is well," he said, "in a country like Prussia, where they are educated, not by the birch, but by means of the bayonet, it is well to have such a system of compulsion; but in this country we should not submit to it." Now, undoubtedly there does exist generally in Germany, in Prussia especially, a system of interference with private rights which would not be tolerated in this country; but this system of compulsion as exercised in Prussia is entirely in accord with the wishes of the people. In 1848, when there was a temporary revolution in Prussia—when the people rose, when they stated their grievances, and stated them loudly and strongly—not one voice was raised against the system of compulsory education. Oddly enough, when the factory system was applied to various parts of Germany, where a manufacturing population had arisen, the general complaint of the parents was, not that they were obliged to send their children to school during half the day, but that their children were deprived during the other half of the day of the opportunity of instruction. There is therefore on the part of the German people that evident desire for education which makes them submit to compulsion—I will not say submit—but which makes them demand compulsion; and whenever we have had the opportunity of meeting any considerable number of my fellow-countrymen, and putting the question to them whether they consider it or not the duty of the Government, where there was inadequate provision of schools, to enforce upon parents the performance of their duty when that duty was neglected, to send their children to school, the response has been unvarying, as it has been earnest, in favour of the system of compulsion. I think, however (the hon. member continued), it is the business of every cautious statesman to hesitate before he applies so stringent a law. At any rate he ought to observe the old maxim, and a very wise one, "the more haste the worse speed."

Regarding the religious difficulty Mr. Bruce said:—

Germany has been for the last 200 years a rate-supported country, having rate-supported schools. They have very broad distinctions in religion. Nearly one half, or at any rate two fifths, of the population is Roman Catholic, while the rest is Protestant; and amongst the Protestants there are various denominations. Yet at their schools they have contrived, not simply to make their schools an admirable instrument for conveying intellectual education—probably, I may say certainly, with the exception, perhaps, of the Swiss, the best in the world—but they have also contrived to make it an admirable system for conveying religious instruction. Nothing would gratify me more than the conviction that the people of this country were as deeply convinced of the necessity and importance of religious truths as are the great body of the Prussian people. All of you, no doubt, during the late war, read the account of the conduct of the Prussian troops marching to battle; how nine out of every ten in one division regularly attended the communion; how they marched along, as the Covenanters did, and as the Puritans did in the time of Cromwell, singing psalms and hymns; and how their whole conduct was in accordance with their religious professions. That was the work of the school. Again, it is true that in America the system may now be called to a great extent a secular system; yet no man can say that there is in that country an indifference to religion. No doubt the country is broken up into a vast number of denominations, but I have yet to learn that the existence of denomination, frequently differing but slightly from each other, although these differences are raised into great importance, is any argument of indifference to religion. Mr. Fraser, who has recently reported on America, and whose report has excited a great deal of attention and controversy in the press, distinctly says that, although he is by no means satisfied with the amount of religious instruction conveyed in the schools, yet he is bound to say that a really strong religious feeling does animate the people; and, judging by one test—and perhaps the best, that a clergyman has is that of the intelligent interest taken in his own sermons when addressing the people—he never found a more intelligent or a more interested audience than he found amongst the American people. Well, in this matter it is by their fruits you should judge them. If you find that a rate-supported system does not end in producing infidelity, but that it does end in producing good and zealous Christians, it seems to me that we should look rather to experience than listen to those dismal forebodings of men who are arguing without experience in their own country.

FREE TRADE IN LAND.

MR. FAWCETT, M.P., in a lecture at St. James's Hall, on Tuesday night, on "The Future of our Rural Population," declared free trade (which he said he had pledged himself to Mr. Cobden to endeavour to secure) and the creation of peasant proprietors as the panacea for the evils afflicting the agricultural labourer. We were too much accustomed, he said, in this country to think that our landed system was like that which existed in other parts of the world. We had landowners, farmers, and labourers. In the United States land was so cheap that no one ever thought of renting it. There, and in our colonies, land was so cheap and the wages of labour so high that with ordinary thrift a labourer soon acquired a considerable estate. Then look at the Continent. In Prussia, owing to the reform carried on at the close of the last century by Baron Stein and others, the serfs were converted into peasant proprietors, who were loyal and contented, and who cherished the institutions of the country because they had a stake in the country. Whether they went to Belgium, to Flanders, to Prussia, or to Lombardy, they would find that where the land was cultivated by peasant proprietors a much greater amount of happiness was attained than was attained in our own country. The economic results of the system in this country were disastrous. If a man were a good farmer he had no prospect but that at the end of his term his rent would be raised according to the additional value of the land. Then, the agricultural labourer was listless, because he had no interest in good cultivation. Contrast this with the energy of the peasant proprietors on the Continent. We had had some experience of this in our own country. The yeomen of England were always the friends of freedom, and it was from that class that the illustrious Cromwell drew his Ironsides. They had been swept away; their small estates had been merged in the estates of the great proprietors. And not only that, but the common rights of the peasantry had been swept away too. Now, he did not wish to restore the former state of things by any illegal means. If causes were in operation that caused the aggregation of land in large masses, they must allow those causes to operate. But what he said was that that state of things did not lead to the happiness of the people, and if it was found that this aggregation was caused by laws they must alter those laws. The aggregation was simply due to two causes—the law of primogeniture and the power of entail. If a man died possessed of railway shares or money in the funds the law said it should be divided among his children, but if his property were in land it must all go to his eldest son. They might say a man might make a will, but the fact was that this law produced a powerful indirect effect in keeping up the custom of primogeniture, and if something better than they had yet heard could not be urged in its defence he hoped that the people, now that they had popular rights, would demand its abrogation. Then, with regard to entails. An estate which was entailed could not be brought into the market, and that had the effect of giving a fictitious value to the land that was offered for sale, inasmuch as it limited the quantity in the market. Another result of entailing estates was that it prevented improvements being carried out upon the land. But there was another circumstance which gave a monopoly value to land—namely, that hitherto, in this country, great political influence had been associated with the ownership of land, and, therefore, when a man purchased land, part of the purchase money represented the agricultural value and part the political influence which was attached to it. Some people thought they would be wanting in political cries. Well, if they did not think the abolition of the law of primogeniture a sufficient cry for the next generation, he would suggest one. They had got household suffrage for the boroughs, and he would suggest that the cry should be household suffrage in the counties. He did not dread giving the suffrage to the agricultural labourers. Possibly they might be influenced for an election or two by those above them in social position, but he had great confidence in the education given by the suffrage.

ONE OF THE INSPECTORS OF THE POLICE FORCE at Derby has been fined £10 for having voted at the last municipal election. Several other members of the force, it is said, also voted, but will not be proceeded against, one case only having been taken in order to show to police officers that they cannot vote at such elections.

Literature.

Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands, from 1818 to 1861. To which are prefixed and added Extracts from the same Journal, giving an account of Earlier Visits to Scotland, and Tours in England and Ireland, and Yachting Excursions. Edited by ARTHUR HELPS. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Under the above title there has just been published a book that will undoubtedly be read with deep interest by all classes of her Majesty's subjects to whom it is accessible. It is the private journal of the Queen, kept during her married life, which she states, and as everyone will readily understand, was the "happiest portion of her existence." The history of the publication of this work is very similar to that of its precursor, "The Early Life of the Late Prince Consort," and is told in Mr. Helps's preface. It was during one of the official visits of Mr. Helps, as Clerk of the Privy Council, to Balmoral that her Majesty allowed him to see several extracts from her journal relating to excursions in the Highlands of Scotland. He was much interested by them, and expressed the interest which he felt. It then occurred to her Majesty that these extracts, referring as they did to some of the happiest hours of her life, might be made into a book to be printed privately for presentation to members of the Royal family and her Majesty's intimate friends—especially to those who had accompanied and attended her in these tours. It was then suggested to her Majesty that this work, if made known to others, would be very interesting to them as well as to the privileged readers. The Queen, however, said that she had no skill whatever in authorship; that these were for the most part mere homely accounts of excursions near home; and that she felt extremely reluctant to publish anything written by herself. To this the editor replied that, if printed at all, however limited the impression and however careful the selection of persons to whom copies might be given, some portions of the volume, or quite as probably, incorrect representations of its contents, might find their way into the public journals. It would therefore, he thought, be better at once to place the volume within the reach of her Majesty's subjects, who would, no doubt, derive from it pleasure similar to that which it had afforded to the editor himself. Moreover, it would be very gratifying to her subjects, who had always shown a sincere and ready sympathy with the personal joys and sorrows of their Sovereign—to be allowed to know how her rare moments of leisure were passed in her Highland home, where every joy was heightened and every care and sorrow diminished by the loving companionship of the Prince Consort. With his memory the scenes to which the volume refers would always be associated. Upon these considerations her Majesty eventually consented to its publication.

While the book was being printed the editor suggested that it would gain in interest if other extracts were added to it describing her Majesty's progresses in England, Ireland, and the Channel Islands. The Queen was pleased to assent, and the additions were accordingly made.

Mr. Helps further informs us that the work "does not make any pretension to be more than such a record of the impressions received by the Royal author in the course of these journeys as might hereafter serve to recall to her own mind the scenes and circumstances which had been the source of so much pleasure. All references to political questions, or to the affairs of Government, have been studiously omitted. The book is mainly confined to the natural expressions of a mind rejoicing in the beauties of nature, and throwing itself, with a delight rendered keener by the rarity of its opportunity, into the enjoyment of a life removed, for the moment, from the pressure of public cares." While this is true, it is not the whole truth; for the editor might have added that on page after page there are perfect, if simple and unaffected, descriptions of scenes given in a few sentences, often in a few words. Those who think that Royal personages and poets must always be upon stilts, and saying grand things about whatever matters of interest or beauty are brought under their notice, need not go to the Queen's journal for specimens of the "high-faluting" style of composition—for they will not find them. But, if a simple and earnest expression of warm feeling, genuine admiration of what is grand in nature, and keen sympathy with all that is good and honest, couched in the most natural terms, be wanted, it will be found in abundance in this volume. As the editor truly remarks, "in every page the writer describes what she thinks and feels, rather than what she might be expected to think and feel." Expected by vulgar people, that is, Mr. Helps.

The book opens with the journal of the first visit of her Majesty to Scotland, on which occasion Sir James Forrest, then Lord Provost of Edinburgh, made such a fiasco of the reception, the whole affair having been concluded before Sir James, according to popular belief, had doffed his nightcap. The Queen, however, passes over that affair by a slight reference to a "mistake of the Lord Provost." She was too much inclined to be pleased with all she saw to take heed of the shortcomings of Edinburgh municipal officials. The public were not so complaisant, poor Sir James's blunder having been mercilessly condemned and himself satirised in a parody on "Johnny Cope," beginning "Hey, Jamie Forrest, are ye wakin' yet," which was sung through the streets of "Auld Reekie" with immense approval. On this occasion the Queen was much struck with the differences in all she saw to what she had been previously accustomed; "so unlike England," we find recorded every now and then. With the appearance of the famous Edinburgh fishwomen her Majesty was particularly impressed. "The people were most enthusiastic, and the crowd very great. The porters, all mounted, with curious Scotch caps, and their horses decorated with flowers, had a very singular effect; but the fishwomen are the most striking-looking people, and are generally young and pretty women—very clean and very Dutch-looking, with their white caps and bright-coloured petticoats. They never marry out of their class."

Mr. Helps points out, and no reader of the journal can fail to note, the willingness to be pleased; and also the exceeding kindness of feeling—gratitude, even—with which the Royal tourists recognise any attention paid to them, or any manifestation of the cordial attachment felt towards them by any of her Majesty's subjects, from the highest to the humblest, whom they happen to meet with in the course of their journeys. Mr. Helps might have added that there is a hearty, kindly sympathy with suffering wherever observed, as, for instance on page 21, where we find this entry:—"We drove in to where the Highlanders were all drawn up, in the midst of their encampments, and where a tent was prepared for us to lunch in. Poor Lord Glenlyon received us; but he had suddenly become totally blind, which is dreadful for him. He was led about by his wife; it was very melancholy. His blindness was caused by over-fatigue." It would be impossible, however, to note every instance of simple kindness contained in the book; we should have to quote half the volume if we did. We cannot refrain, however, from calling attention to the interest taken by her Majesty and the Prince in the fortunes of even the humblest of their attendants. The footnotes supply ample evidences of this. We quote one or two. Having occasion to mention two men named Macdonald and Grant, her Majesty says of the first:—"A Jäger of the Prince's, who came from Fort Augustus in the west; he was remarkably tall and handsome. The poor man died of consumption at Windsor, in May, 1860. His eldest son was Attaché to the British Legation in Japan. He died in 1866. The third son, Archie, is Jäger to the Prince of Wales, and was for a year with the beloved Prince." And of the second:—"Head keeper. He had been nearly twenty years with Sir Robert Gordon, nine as keeper; he was born in Braemar, in the year 1810. He is an excellent man, most trustworthy, of singular shrewdness and discretion, and most devotedly attached to the Prince and myself. He has a fine intelligent countenance. The Prince was very fond of him. He has six sons—the second, Alick, is ward-robe-man to our son Leopold; all are good, well-disposed lads, and getting on well in their different occupations. His mother, a fine, hale old woman of eighty years, 'stops' in a small cottage which the Prince built for her in our village. He, himself, lives in a pretty lodge called Croft, a mile from Balmoral, which the Prince built for

him." Again, in reference to John Brown, we have this note:—"The same who, in 1858, became my regular attendant out of doors everywhere in the Highlands; who commenced as gillie in 1849, and was selected by Albert and me to go with my carriage. In 1851 he entered our service permanently, and began in that year leading my pony, and advanced step by step by his good conduct and intelligence. His attention, care, and faithfulness cannot be exceeded; and the state of my health, which of late years has been sorely tried and weakened, renders such qualifications most valuable, and, indeed, most needful in a constant attendant upon all occasions. He has since, most deservedly, been promoted to be an upper servant and my permanent personal attendant (December, 1865). He has all the independence and elevated feelings peculiar to the Highland race, and is singularly straightforward, simple-minded, kind-hearted, and disinterested; always ready to oblige; and of a discretion rarely to be met with. He is now in his fortieth year. His father was a small farmer, who lived at the Bush on the opposite side to Balmoral. He is the second of nine brothers—three of whom have died—two are in Australia and New Zealand, two are living in the neighbourhood of Balmoral; and the youngest, Archie (Archibald), is valet to our son Leopold, and is an excellent, trustworthy young man." The Queen's feelings as a mother, too, come out prominently and naturally. She is always anxious about her children, and proud of their behaviour. Every mother will appreciate this in reference to the Princess Royal (now Princess of Prussia):—"We got out at an inn (which was small, but very clean) at Dunkeld, and stopped to let Vicky have some broth. Such a charming view from the window! Vicky stood and bowed to the people out of the window. There never was such a good traveller as she is, sleeping in the carriage at her usual times, not put out, nor frightened at noise or crowds; but pleased and amused. She never heard the anchor go at night on board ship, but slept as sound as a top."

Premising that the volume contains most interesting accounts of numerous excursions in the Highlands, as well as of yachting on the coast of Wales and in the west of Scotland, the Irish tours, &c., we must conclude our notice of her Majesty's journal by stating that "To the memory of him who made the life of the writer bright and happy, these simple records are lovingly and gratefully inscribed." If we might venture on a suggestion, it would be that a cheap edition of the work should be issued, so as to place it within the reach of all classes of her Majesty's subjects, to whom it will endear her more than ever, if that be possible. Some extracts will be found below.

LIFE IN THE HIGHLANDS.

(From the Queen's Journal.)

AMONGST the records of many similar excursions, this is the account the Queen gives of a

VISIT TO LOCH-NA-GAR.

Saturday, Sept. 16, 1848.
At half-past nine o'clock Albert and I set off in a post chaise, and drove to the bridge in the wood of Balloch Buie, about five miles from Balmoral, where our ponies and people were. Here we mounted, and were attended by a keeper of Mr. Farquharson's as guide, Macdonald—who, with his shooting-jacket, and in his kilt, looked a picture—Grant on a pony, with his luncheon in two baskets, and Batterbury on another pony. We went through that beautiful wood for about a mile, and then turned and began to ascend gradually the view getting finer and finer; no road, but not bad ground—moss, heather, and stones. Albert saw some deer when we had been out about three quarters of an hour, and ran off to stalk them, while I rested; but he arrived just a minute too late. He waited for me on the other side of a stony little burn, which I crossed on my pony, after our faithful Highlanders had moved some stones and made it easier. We then went on a little way, and I got off and walked a bit, and afterwards remounted; Macdonald leading my pony. The view of Ben-na-Bhour, and, indeed, of all around, was very beautiful; but as we rose higher we saw mist over Loch-na-Gar. Albert left me to go after ptarmigan, and went on with Grant, while the others remained with me, taking the greatest care of me. Macdonald is a good honest man, and was indelible, and poor Batterbury was very anxious also.

I saw ptarmigan get up, and Albert fire—he then disappeared from my sight, and I rode on. It became cold and misty when we were on Loch-na-Gar. In half an hour, or rather less, Albert rejoined me with two ptarmigan, having come up by a shorter way. Here it was quite soft, easy walking, and we looked down on two small lochs called Na Nian, which were very striking, being so high up in the hills. Albert was tired, and remounted his pony; I had also been walking a little way. The ascent commenced, and with it a very thick fog; and when we had nearly reached the top of Loch-na-Gar the mist drifted in thick clouds, so as to hide everything not within one hundred yards of us. Near the peak (the fine point of the mountain which is seen so well from above Grant's house) we got off and walked, and climbed up some steep stones to a place where we found a seat in a little nook, and had some luncheon. It was just two o'clock; so we had taken four hours going up.

But, alas! nothing whatever to be seen; and it was cold, and wet, and cheerless. At about twenty minutes after two we set off on our way downwards, the wind blowing a hurricane and the mist being like rain, and everything quite dark with it. Bowman (Mr. Farquharson's keeper) and Macdonald, who preceded us, looked like ghosts. We walked some way till I was quite breathless, and remounted my pony, well wrapped up in plaids; and we came down by the same path that Albert had come up, which is shorter, but steeper; the pony went delightfully, but the mist made me feel cheerless.

Albert kept ahead a little while for ptarmigan, but he gave it up again. When we had gone on about an hour and a quarter, or an hour and a half, the fog disappeared like magic, and all was sunshine below, about 1600 ft. from the top I should say. Most provoking! And yet one felt happy to see sunshine and daylight again.

The view, as one descends overlooking Invercauld and the wood which is called Balloch Buie, is most lovely. We saw some deer in the wood below. We rode on till after we passed the burn, and had nearly got to the wood. We came another way down, by a much rougher path; and then, from the road in the wood, we walked up to the Falls of the Garbhath, which are beautiful. The rocks are very grand, and the view from the little bridge, and also from a seat a little lower down, is extremely pretty. We found our carriages in the road, and drove home by six o'clock.

We met Captain Gordon, and then Lord John Russell and Sir James Clark. They had come to look after us, and when we got home we found the two ladies at the door waiting most anxiously for us.

ROUGHING IT AT ALT-NA-GUTHASACH.

The next year there is an account of a kind of camping out in the little bottle at Alt-na-Guthasach:—

Aug. 30, 1849.

After writing our letters, we set off on our ponies, with Miss Dawson, Macdonald, Grant, Batterbury, and Hamis Coutts (Hamis is Gaelic for James, and is pronounced "Hamish"). The road has been improved since last year, and though it is still very rough, there are no fords to pass nor rent difficult any longer. We rode the whole way, and Albert only walked the last two miles. He took a Gaelic lesson during our ride, asking Macdonald, who speaks it with great purity, many words, and making him talk to Jennie Coutts. Albert has a ready picked up many words; but it is a very difficult language, for it is pronounced in a totally different way from that in which it is written.

We arrived at our little "bottle" at two o'clock, and were amazed at the transformation. There are two butts, and to the one in which we live a wooden addition has been made. We have a charming little dining-room, sitting-room, bed-room, and dressing-room, all *en suite*; and there is a little room where Caroline Dawson (the Maid of Honour) sleeps, one for her maid, and a little pantry. In the other house, which is only a few yards distant, is the kitchen, where the people generally sit, a small room where the servants dine, and another, which is a sort of store-room, and a loft above, in which the men sleep. Margaret French (my maid), Caroline's maid, Lühlein (Albert's valet), a cook, Shackle (a footman), and Macdonald, are the only people with us in the house, old John Gordon and his wife excepted. Our rooms are delightfully papered, the ceilings as well as walls, and very nicely furnished. We lunched as soon as we arrived, and at three walked down (about twenty minutes' walk) to the loch called "Mulch," which some say means darkness or sorrow. Here we found a large boat, into which we all got, and Macdonald, Duncan, Grant, and Coutts rowed, old John Gordon and two others going in another boat with the net. They rowed up to the head of the loch, to where the Mulch runs down out of the Dhu Loch, which is on the other side.

The scenery is beautiful here, so wild and grand—real severe Highland scenery, with trees in the hollow. We had various scrambles in and out of the boat and along the shore, and saw three hawks and caught seventy trout. I wish an artist could have been there to sketch the scene, it was so picturesque—the boat, the net, and the people in their kilts in the water and on the shore. In going back Albert rowed and Macdonald steered, and the lights were beautiful.

We came home at a quarter past seven. At eight we dined, Lühlein, Macdonald, and Shackle waiting on us. After dinner we played with Caroline Dawson at whist with dummy, and afterwards walked round the

little garden. The silence and solitude, only interrupted by the waving of the fir-trees, were very solemn and striking.

MEAGRE FARE.

It became cold and windy, with occasional rain. At length, and not till a quarter to nine, we reached the inn at Dalwinnie, which stands by itself, away from any village. Here, again, there were a few people assembled, and I thought they knew us; but it seems they did not, and it was only when we arrived that one of the maids recognised me. She had seen me at Aberdeen and Edinburgh. We went up stairs; the inn was much larger than at Fettercairn, but not nearly so nice and cheerful; there was a drawing-room and a dining room; and we had a good sized bed room. Albert had a dressing room of equal size. Mary Andrews (who was very useful and efficient) and Lady Churchill's maid had a room together, every one being in the house; but unfortunately there was hardly anything to eat, and there was only tea, and two miserable starved Highland chickens, without any potatoes! No pudding, and no *foes*; no little maid (the two there not wishing to come in), nor our two people—who were wet, and drying our and their things—to wait on us! It was not a nice supper; and the evening was wet. As it was late we soon retired to rest. Mary and Maxted (Lady Churchill's maid) had been dining below with Grant, Brown, and Stewart (who came, the same as last time, with the maids), in the "commercial room" at the foot of the stairs. They had only the remnants of our two starved chickens!

AMONG THE POOR.

Her Majesty was fond of moving about among the cottages of the poor, and gives an account of some visits which she paid to certain old women:—

I went into a small cabin of old Kitty Kent's, who is eighty-six years old, quite erect, and who welcomed us with a great air of dignity. She sat down and spun. I gave her, also, a warm petticoat; she said, "May the Lord ever attend ye and yours, here and hereafter; and may the Lord be a guide to ye, and keep ye from all harm!" She was quite surprised at Vicky's height; great interest is taken in her. We went on to a cottage (formerly Jean Gordon's), to visit old Widow Symons, who is "past four-score," with a nice rosy face, but was bent quite double; she was most friendly, shaking hands with us all, asking which was I, and repeating many kind blessings—"May the Lord attend ye with mirth and with joy; may He ever be with ye in this world, and when ye leave it!" To Vicky, when told she was going to be married, she said, "May the Lord be a guide to ye in your future, and may every happiness attend ye!" She was very talkative, and when I said I hoped to see her again she expressed an expectation that "she should be called any day," and so did Kitty Kent.

We went into three other cottages—to Mrs. Symons's (daughter-in-law to the old widow living next door), who had an "unwell boy;" then across a little burn to another old widow's; and afterwards peeped into Blair, the fiddler's. We drove back, and got out again to visit old Mrs. Grant (Grant's mother), who is so tidy and clean, and to whom I gave a dress and handkerchief, and she said, "You're too kind to me, you're over kind to me; ye give me more every year, and I get older every year. After talking some time with her she said, 'I am happy to see ye looking so nice.' She had tears in her eyes, and, speaking of Vicky's going, said, 'I am very sorry, and I think it is sorry herself'; and having said she feared she would not see her (the Princess) again, said, 'I am very sorry I said that; but I meant no harm; I always say just what I think, and not what is put' (dit) Dear old lady, she is such a pleasant person.

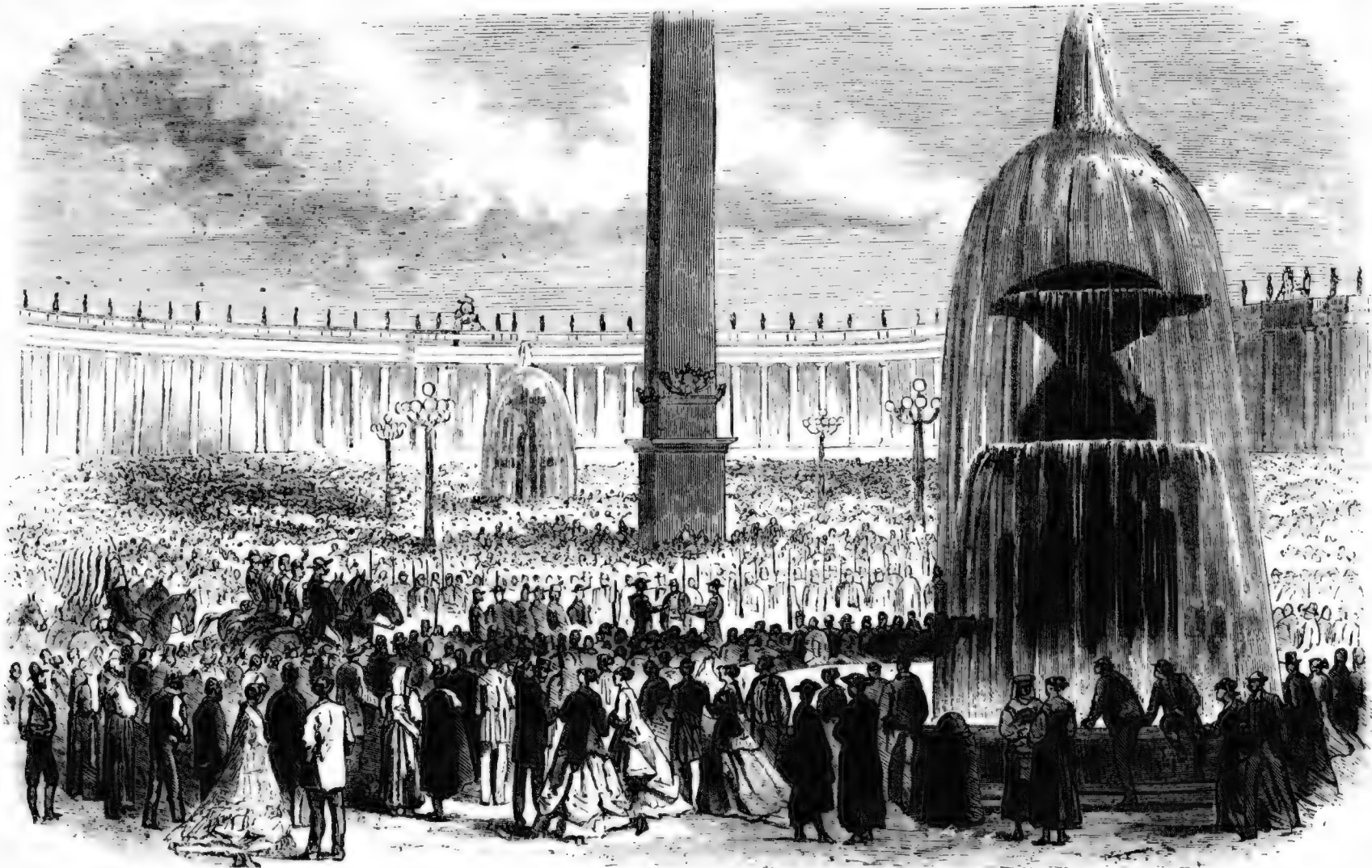
"Really the affection of these good people, who are so hearty and so happy to see you, taking interest in everything, is very touching and gratifying."

METROPOLITAN FIRES.—Captain Shaw's report on the Metropolitan Fire Brigade for 1867 contains some curious statistics. In all there were 1397 fires during the year. To this list the private houses contributed most, then the lodging-houses, then the public-houses, then the drapers', the boot-makers', and the bakers' shops. The candle is the chief cause of fires, and after that come sparks from grates, gas, flues, children playing with lucifers, and lamps, which are destructive in the order named. The brigade has greatly increased in efficiency since it has been under the control of the Board of Works; it has twenty-six more stations, and employs a hundred five more men than in 1865. Seventy of the men have had accidents during the year. Of these accidents, thirty-two were of the nature of contusions, twelve of burns and scalds, and six of the poisoning of the blood from the inhalation of noxious vapours. This is considered an unusually large proportion of serious cases; but, on the other hand, the losses to the public have been much lighter than in former years, so that the public has purchased immunity at the expense of the brigade. Among the minor causes of fires arising from the brigade, five fires were owing to intoxication, five to incendiarism, one to fireworks, one to a parrot, and one to a cat.

NEW BISHOP OF NATAL.—It appears that a reverend gentleman has at length been induced to take upon himself the responsibilities of the see of Natal, in the room of Dr. Colenso, deceased. The gentleman nominated is the Rev. W. K. Macrorie, M.A., of Brasenose College, Oxford. Mr. Macrorie was formerly a master of Radley, subsequently Incumbent of Wapping, and now Incumbent of St. James's, Acerrington, to which he was presented by the Hulsen trustees. He is described by those who know him as a very High Churchman, but not what is called a Ritualist. It is understood that he will be consecrated forthwith, and will be designated Bishop of Pieter-Maritzburg. The election has been made by the Metropolitan and the Bishop of Grahamstown in concurrence with the Archbishop of Canterbury, in accordance with the following resolution, which was adopted by the clergy and laity of the Church in Natal, assembled at Pieter-Maritzburg, Oct. 25, 1866:—"That, if the person now elected be hindered from accepting the holy office, the Bishops of Capetown and Grahamstown be requested to choose, with the concurrence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a fit and proper person whom, when canonically consecrated, we hereby bind ourselves to receive as our Bishop." A committee has been formed for the purpose of raising the required income, of which the Hon. and Rev. H. Douglas and Canon Seymour are secretaries. The Bishop of Capetown has guaranteed £600 a year so long as it is necessary, and the expenses of a passage. £700 a year has been promised for five years, and £1000 been given in subscriptions. A guarantee fund is suggested to secure the Bishop of Capetown.

COUNT BISMARCK.—A curious correspondence between Count Bismarck and the members of a Conservative society in Pomerania is published by the *Vossische Zeitung*—we hope with sufficient authority, for it is really very funny. This society asked the Count for an explanation of his conduct—first, in abandoning the Conservative party; second, in allowing himself to be photographed along with Mdlle. Lucca; and, third, in having ceased to go to church. The Count at once gave a categorical reply, with many thanks for the frankness with which his "dear friends" had addressed him. In regard to the first point, Count Bismarck says that people at a distance cannot judge of the circumstances which must necessarily influence the political conduct of a statesman; that he must act for the good of the country whose destinies have been placed in his hands; and that if his correspondents knew how difficult it is to adopt the right course, and how heavy a burden rests on his shoulders, they would acquit him of wilful desertion of his party. In explanation of the second point the Count reminds his correspondents of the lengthy negotiations which led to the Convention of Gastein. "At one time," he says, "matters came to a dead lock, and life became so insufferably tedious that I did not know how to kill time. I went for a walk, met Mdlle. Lucca, whom I knew, and submitted to her that she should relieve the tediousness of our existence by giving a concert. 'Perhaps I will,' she answered; 'but only on one condition.' And what may that be? 'That your Excellency will allow yourself to be photographed along with me.' 'With pleasure,' I answered; and this was the origin of the picture. I now leave it to you to judge whether you should cast a stone at me on this account." As for the Count's non-attendance at church, he explains that his doctor forbids him to attend Divine service, as he has become so exhausted through working night after night that he is not equal to the effort. He adds that he feels this to be a great privation, and often prays in his own room for guidance as to what is best for the Fatherland.

STRIKE OF METROPOLITAN POOR-LAW GUARDIANS.—The Bethnal-green guardians, finding that they are already compelled to impose a rate which involves great oppression of their poorer parishioners, to meet the current expenses of the relief of the in and out door poor, refuse to undertake to draw the large additional sums from their parish required for the purposes of the necessary alterations in the infirmary, and the construction of dispensaries and asylums, under the Metropolitan Poor Act. The guardians of Shoreditch and Clerkenwell are preparing to follow the example. The equalisation of the rates necessary to cover the expenses of this Act was carried out to a very limited extent only by Mr. Hardy. The committee of the Workhouse Infirmaries Association, by whom all the main provisions of that Act were suggested, were very earnest at the time that Mr. Hardy should extend the equalisation part of the bill to a much greater extent, and not only entered into private correspondence with him on the subject, but, seeing that Mr. Hardy, from motives of prudence, well-intended if excessive, was unwilling to adopt the principle of equalisation, except in respect to lunatics and fever cases—a very limited proportion of the sick—Earl Grosvenor, M.P., undertook, as chairman of the association, to move formal resolutions in the Committee of the House, with the view of throwing on the whole area of London these very expenses which the Bethnal-green guardians and themselves unable to meet. The amendments moved were received with considerable favour, but were not pressed to a division, as they were opposed by the Government, which probably now would be willing enough to adopt them. When it is mentioned that St. George's pays only sixpence where the East-End pays four shillings in the pound, and that a one-and-sixpenny rate over the entire area would cover the entire expenditure for poor-law relief, ordinary and extraordinary, the case of the East-End guardians, will, we think, be felt to be so strong that it requires only patient and earnest representations on their part to secure so just a measure for the metropolis. We avow ourselves earnest advocates of the equalisation of the poor rates in the metropolis.—*British Medical Journal*.



DECORATING THE POPE'S SOLDIERS AFTER MENTANA.

THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

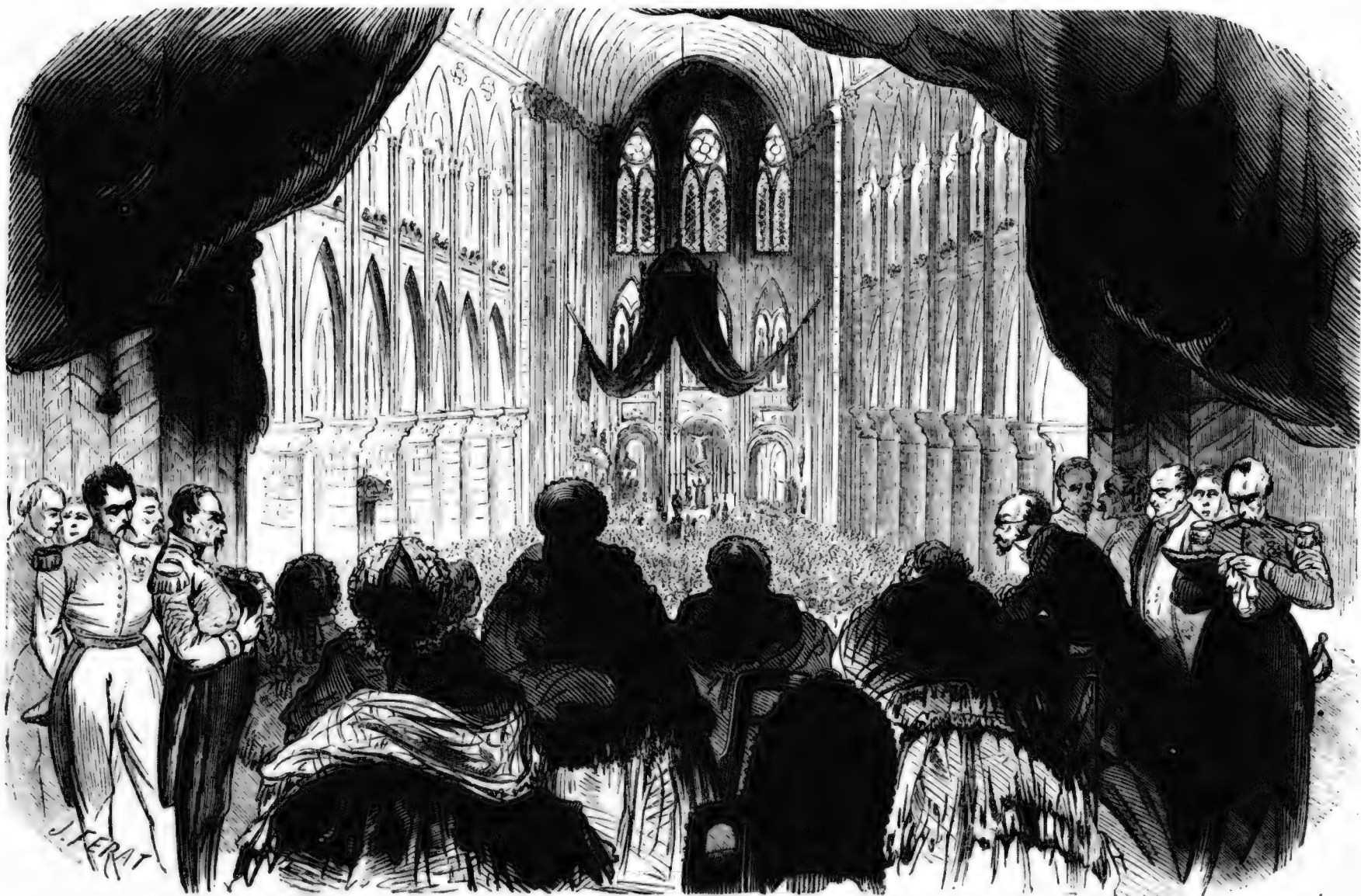
SOME weeks ago we published a description of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, shortly after it had broken out. Since then the eruption has continued to increase in intensity and splendour.

For several days after Christmas the thunders of the mountain were so strong as to break the windows in the neighbourhood with the vibration, and the stones which were ejected fell half-way down the cone. It may be conceived, therefore, what a height they attained. On the 28th there was a slight diminution in the action of the mountain, and then the shocks began as violently as ever—the crater full of lava boiled like a cauldron; while columns of ashes and crystals of *anfigeno*, so says the daily report, were sent to a great elevation.

Some days since another crater was formed near the Great Cone and in the direction of the Hermitage. Out of this has been flowing ever since a river of liquid lava, offering the most brilliant spectacle. From the two craters issue two curved streams, forming an ellipse, meeting, of course, at the bottom, and pouring down towards Resina. At times the entire interval between the streams is filled with the fiery flood, from the sides of which issue a thousand little rivulets, appearing in the distance like the coruscations of an aurora-borealis. A correspondent at Naples, writing on Dec. 31, says:—

"Last Friday being a favourable day, I ascended the mountain from Torre dell' Annunziata. The beauty of the day and the extraordinary activity of the volcano the previous evening had tempted a great many sightseers on the same errand as myself. I overtook

a motley crowd of these, who had started from Pompeii after having cleared that place and the neighbourhood of every available animal. They seemed to be all Italians, and represented every class of society. One exquisite, dressed as if for a morning ride in Rotten-row, with tight trousers strapped over patent boots, a pair of spurs, and an eyeglass, bestrode a donkey so tiny that the rider had considerable difficulty in keeping his feet off the ground. Another of the cavalcade, also riding a donkey, was a military Chaplain, smartly dressed in grey trousers, a short coat, and a rather jaunty hat. He fell to the rear very soon, his donkey positively declining to proceed any further when he reached the steep part of the ascent. Evil example is proverbially contagious, and this instance of successful disobedience was not long



"TE DEUM" AT NOTRE DAME DE PARIS.

in infecting the whole herd. One by one, the donkeys first and then the ponies, struck work, and the riders had to dismount and drive their beasts before them, happy if they could succeed even in that, and shouting and gesticulating as only Neapolitans can. The sight was amusing enough; but it lost its interest in the sublimity of the spectacle which we were now approaching. In the previous phases of the eruption the explosions followed each other rapidly for some minutes, and then ceased for intervals of various duration. But on Friday there was a constant succession of explosions, without any intervals of rest. Shot followed shot so swiftly that the sound of one had not time to die away when the next occurred. The detonations were distinctly heard at Naples, and they became almost deafening as we approached the cone. In the bright sunlight the showers of stones which were ejected from the crater at each explosion appeared black, and looked for all the world, as they ascended and scattered in the air, like a flight of rooks suddenly disturbed by a shot fired into the rookery. As, however, the sun descended behind Ischia, and day waned into twilight, the rooks began to change their colour from black to red, and then, as the darkness thickened, from red to the most dazzling glow of incandescent brightness. The showers went up into the air dense and brilliant, like the play of some huge fiery fountain, and then fell back again partly into the gaping crater, and partly in parabolic curves all round the mountain. So frequent were the explosions that the ascending and descending showers kept crossing each other almost without intermission. I am afraid that some of your readers will think that I am drawing the long bow when I express my opinion that some of the stones were hurled at least two thousand feet into the air; but I verily believe that such an estimate would be rather under the mark than over it. Some of the stones were of enormous bulk, probably many tons in weight, and occupied more than a minute in descending, reckoning not from the moment of leaving the crater, but from the highest point of altitude. Some fell straight back into the crater, others half way down the mountain, while not a few, on reaching the ground, rebounded, and went thundering down the mountain in a series of leaps, sometimes reaching the bottom, and sometimes breaking in pieces on the way and dispersing in a shower of fire. There is something not only picturesque but awful in the sight of a huge ball of fire speeding down a mountain through the darkness and solitude of night, like some unearthly monster rushing on its prey. It is decidedly a case where 'distance lends enchantment to the view'; and accordingly we (for I was accompanied by two friends and a guide) had not gone far up the cone when we considered it prudent to retrace our steps, not at all relishing the prospect of being hurled into space by some stray shot from Vesuvius.

"A beautiful stream of lava—not crimson, like the one I saw when I visited Vesuvius five weeks ago, but bright, like a clear flame—was rushing down in a cataract from the summit of the new cone and in the direction of Ottaviano. It decreased in speed as it approached the bottom of the old cone, but even there its rate of progress could not have been less than four miles an hour. It was about 20 ft. wide, and not very deep, having no time to accumulate, owing to the rapidity of its flow. For the same reason, there was no bank worth speaking of on either side like the stream I saw in the Atrio del Cavallo at my former visit. When the lava moves slowly it cools at the sides and on the surface, and thus forms a sort of canal, the bed of which is continually raised, in consequence of the molten mass congealing beneath the fiery stream, which, with uniform action, pushes right and left the scorice that are floating on the surface. In this way a regular dam is at length thrown up, sometimes to a considerable height, in which the glowing stream flows on as quietly as any mill-stream. But when, as on Friday night, the lava flows in a swift current, it has no time to cool, and there being no barrier, it gains in width what it loses in depth. When it reached the Pianura del Cavallo—that is, the plain at the bottom of the cone looking towards Ottaviano—it spread out into a sort of mimic estuary, about 16 ft. deep and some 50 ft. wide. The progress of this was probably something like 10 ft. an hour. We made our way towards it over an old field of lava full of pits and fissures, rugged ridges and smooth patches inviting our footsteps, and then treacherously giving way under us, exactly like an Alpine glacier. At the foot of the lava stream we found a number of people assembled, looking weird and ghost-like from the curious combination of variegated lights and shadows which were reflected from the fire-showers of Vesuvius and from the light of the lava stream. The whole scene was striking and impressive beyond all powers of description, and in some respects quite

different from that which I described in my first letter to you. I was then shut in by the narrow gorge which separates Somma from the cone of Vesuvius. This, no doubt, aided by a bleak howling tempest, enhanced the terrible aspect of the eruption; but it debarred nearly all the lovely scenery which woos the eye wherever it turns in this classic region. Now, on the other hand, when the eye turned away dazed from the splendours of Vesuvius, it lighted on a picture of equal, if softer, beauty. The lights of Nuceria, Ottaviano, and Bosco glittered through the darkness of the valley below; a few lights flickered here and there among the ruins of Pompeii, as if the manes of some of its long-buried inhabitants loved still to wander at 'the witching hour of night' among the haunts of their short-lived revelries; while, further on, Castellamare and a portion of Sorrento sparkled by the sea. Overhead Vesuvius sent out a triumphal arch of smoke, beautifully illuminated by the reflection from the crater and the lava stream, and spanning the sky in the direction of Capri, which could just be seen in outline looming on the horizon like some colossal sea-monster rising from the deep. In the midst of this paradise of silent beauty Vesuvius reared its flaming head; and with one continuous roar sent up volley after volley into the dark blue sky, and to such a height that the red-hot

stones seemed to mingle with the stars. After my friends and myself had feasted our eyes with such a sight as it is rarely given to man to see, we began to wend our way back over the lava glacier (if I may use the expression) of which I have spoken above. This was no easy task. Our guide was evidently a tyro, and our only light was from the fiery showers of the volcano; but these, it must be owned, were sometimes so bright that they illuminated our path like flashes of the most vivid lightning. But the very fact of their being flashes, however rapidly they followed each other, seemed to leave the intervals between each flash darker than they would otherwise have been."

SITE OF MIDDLE-ROW, HOLBORN.

MIDDLE-ROW, Holborn—that unsightly obstruction that long vexed the lieges and troubled the spirits of cab and omnibus drivers—has now totally disappeared, and the result has not only been to remove a serious inconvenience to the traffic in one of the most important thoroughfares in London, but to bring into full view the fine and interesting buildings which the row formerly concealed. Looking at the place now, and fully realising the value of the recent improvement, it is difficult to understand how such an excrescence as Middle-row ever came to be erected or was endured for so lengthened a period. Our Engraving shows the present condition of the spot; let anyone look on this picture and try to recall that, and say if Londoners have not reason to be thankful for one thing recently done for them, at all events, whatever other nuisances they may still have to endure.

REWARDS DISTRIBUTED TO THE PAPAL TROOPS.

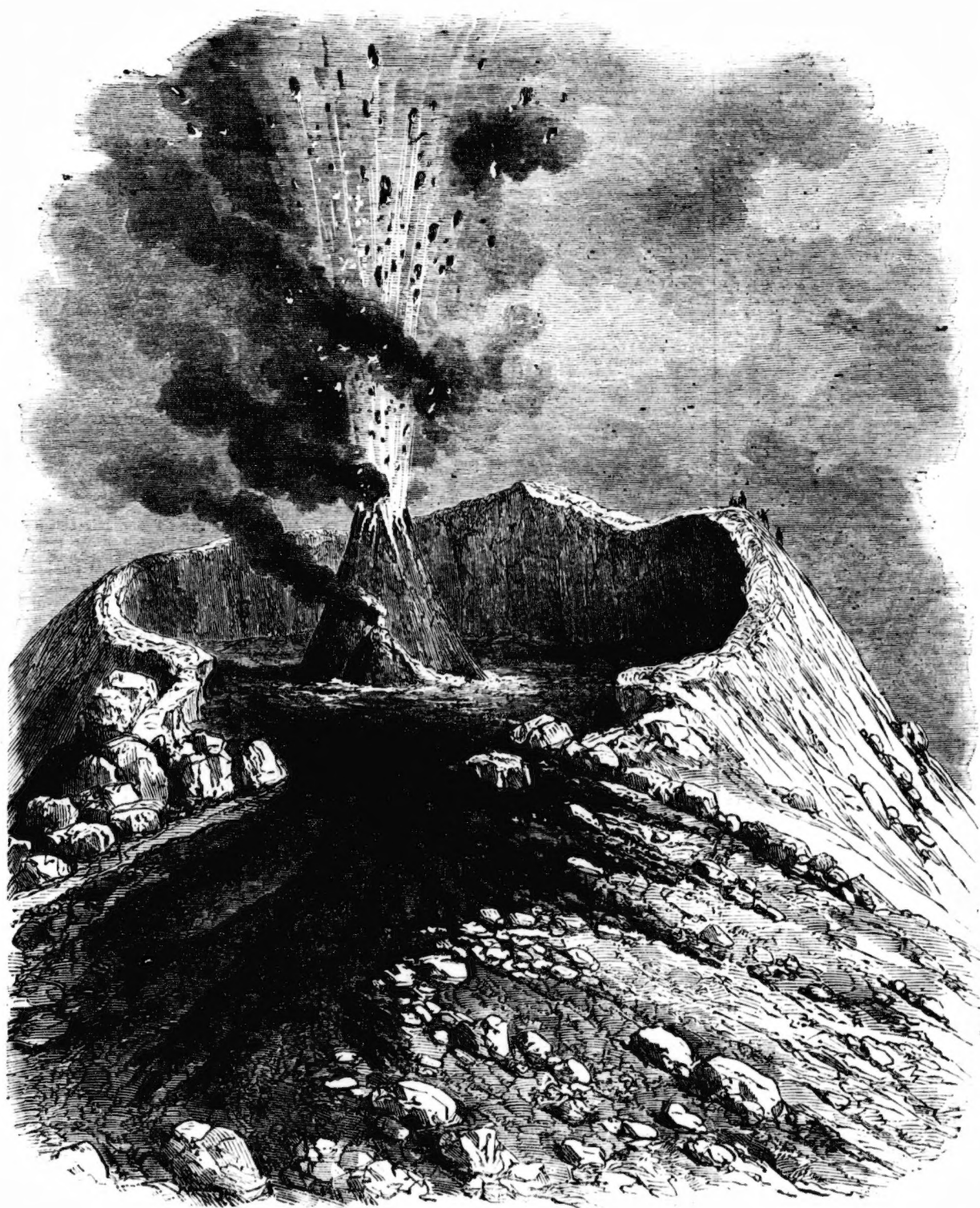
WE shall now, for a time at least, cease to hear much from Rome on the subject of the Garibaldian insurrection. The whole matter has been solemnly concluded. The Pope has issued a fresh allocation; Cardinal Andrea has recanted from Liberalism, and saved his hat by implicit obedience if not unfeigned repentance; Napoleon III. is the faithful and favoured son of the Church once more; and the Papal soldiers have been rewarded for their devotion by the Sovereign Pontiff himself. It is this latter ceremony of which we publish an Engraving. It took place on the day before Christmas Eve, in the square of the Vatican, or rather the square of St. Peter, where 4000 men assembled, under the command of General Kanzler. A large crowd "assisted" at the ceremony, which was conducted by his Holiness from a window of the Vatican.

"TE DEUM" AT NOTRE DAME DE PARIS.

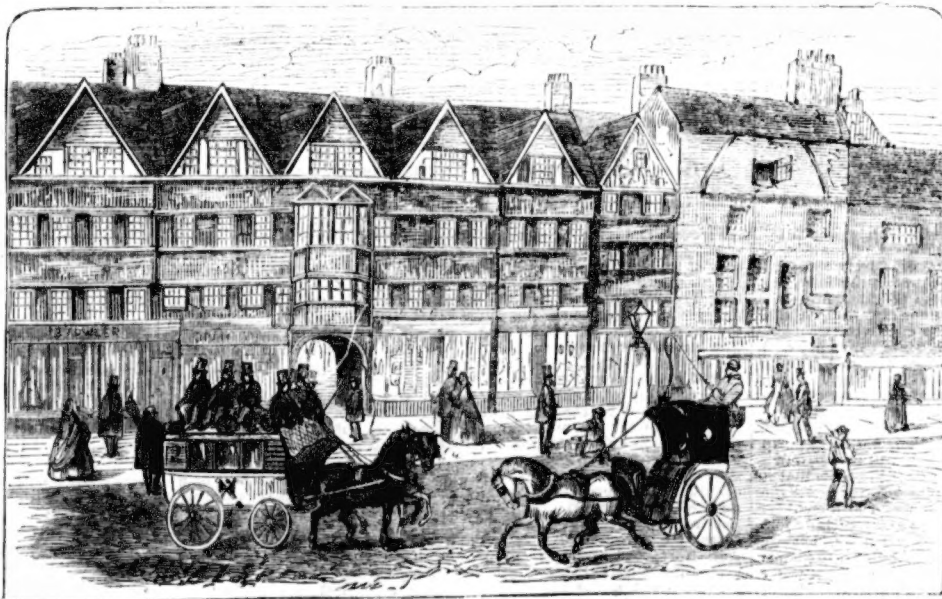
OUR neighbours across the Channel seldom do things by halves. If they go in for a thing at all, they do so thoroughly. If the French fight, or revolutionise, or make love, or dance, or sing, or talk, they do each and all with their whole heart. And so it is with religion as with other matters. Time was that the French, and especially the Parisians, banished religion and priests entirely from amongst them. The tawdry "Goddess of Reason" usurped the place of the Church and of faith. That time is past, however; and now again religion—or at least religious observance—holds a prominent position among the Gauls. And they are as energetic in attending to the rites and services of the faith as ever they were in overturning them. Hence, perhaps, their championship of Rome; hence, certainly, their frequent presence in church, particularly on high days and festivals, at high mass, &c. No such ceremony takes place in the cathedral of Notre Dame without being attended by a goodly number of the residents of Paris, especially of the feminine and military orders; possible because these classes have little else to do. Our Engraving represents the performance of a "Te Deum" at Notre Dame, and it will be seen that the fair and the brave constitute the majority of the audience. The Church, surely, can have little to fear in a country where the women and the army are so unmistakably on her side.

RIVERS POLLUTION COMMISSION.

HER Majesty's Commissioners appointed to inquire into the pollution of rivers, having presented three reports—namely, 1st, on the Thames; 2nd, on the river Lea; and 3rd, on the rivers Aire and Calder, the seat of the worsted and woollen trade of the West Riding of Yorkshire—have commenced, at Liverpool, an inquiry into the pollutions of the rivers Mersey, Irwell, and their tributaries, on which are seated the great cotton trades and other manufactures. Liverpool and Birkenhead are ports situated on the river Mersey, near to the estuary, washed by tides regularly, and with so vast a volume of water as not in themselves either to pollute the river water to any serious extent, or to be subjected to inconvenience from inland river pollutions; but



THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS: VIEW OF THE CRATER.



IMPROVEMENTS IN HOLBORN: THE SITE OF MIDDLE-ROW AS IT NOW IS.

as the entire sewage from these towns and their suburbs, from Runcorn to New Brighton and Formby, including a population approaching to one million persons, passes from both sides, Lancashire and Cheshire, direct into the river, it is considered advisable to obtain facts, even if they are for the most part negative, as to this sewage so discharged causing nuisance injurious to health. Probably the Commissioners may think it necessary to ascertain at about what point of the Mersey—the old name for the river Mersey—the vast inland pollutions cease to be observed. At Runcorn, and at Widnes, immediately opposite, and at Warrington and St. Helen's, there are alkali-works, soapworks, and some other large manufactories which pollute the tributary streams, canals, and also the river Mersey at this point to a fearful extent. The Sankey Canal is so polluted by fluids that iron boats have had to be abandoned, and limestone at the canal locks has been removed and sandstone substituted. A visitor may see many acres of ground covered with solid alkali waste, from which the rain washes all that is soluble; and it is, no doubt, some of this refuse which causes so much mischief and destruction. The Earl of Derby's Act has reduced the nuisance formerly caused by the gases which were allowed to escape into the atmosphere; but at present some form of protection is required for earth and water. The rivers and their tributaries above Warrington are polluted in such a degree as to be the cause of nuisance over the entire manufacturing district—not so much by cleansing, spinning, and weaving cotton, as by bleaching, printing, dyeing, paper-making, chemical, and other similar works. Then there is the sewage of the entire population (upwards of 2,000,000), which is allowed to pass direct into the streams; the water of all these streams and also of the canals being required for power or use of some sort, much of it for steam-boiler purposes; and in summer or at any time when there has been continuous dry weather, the entire volume of water is heated so as to evaporate and appear as if boiling. Much as the streams are polluted by fluids, they are probably more abused by filling in of solids, as furnace ashes, spent solids from printworks, bleachworks, dye-works, paper-making, and chemical waste, refuse from mines, from foundations, and from roads. We learn this much from the reports already published, especially from the third report and evidence relative to the West Riding of Yorkshire. From a report published in a Sunderland newspaper, we also learn that the river Wear is most seriously damaged for navigation purposes by the filling in of solids in the tributaries, such as mine refuse, ashes, &c., the total, it is stated, amounting to hundreds of thousands of tons per annum. The Harbour Commissioners at Sunderland consider it absolutely necessary that better river conservancy should be established. The law applicable to riparian ownership is at present either uncertain or ill-defined. The right to the soil in the bed of a stream or river is supposed to belong to the riparian owners; but there is no recognised authority, as a conservator, to control such owner or owners in the use of the banks of any stream, or in building. The middle line longitudinally is usually the line of division between opposite riparian owners; but if one man builds upon such central line a large factory—and the case has happened in some places—and the opposite owner claimed and exercised a similar right, the stream must be effectually blocked, and would then flood all above such block, or would force a new channel in some other direction. Again, if a weir is constructed or the stream is walled and arched over so as to obstruct floods, great damage is caused to local property. These forms of abuse and injury are common in manufacturing districts.

It may be truly said, "There is the common law which may be put in force to restrain such forms of abuse." No doubt there is that legal power; but under existing complications it has ceased to be available, or is only capable of an unjust application. River abuse, for the most part, begins at the fountain-head of a stream, and is continued down to the estuary; the active prosecution of individuals or even of single towns is therefore generally an injustice, as the entire community is involved involuntarily in river pollution. The evil has become national, and requires some form of Imperial remedy. We do not expect that the vast trade of this country can be carried on, and yet that we shall restore our rivers to an absolute state of purity; but we do hope that the River Commission, after pointing out the chief forms of abuse, will be enabled to suggest some practical common-sense remedy whereby the chief evils now endured may be abated, and even with advantage to trade and manufactures. We shall, at all events, look forward with interest to the Report No. 4, on the rivers Mersey, Irwell, and Ribble pollutions, which are chiefly in Lancashire, the seat of the cotton trade.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE TRADES UNIONISTS.—Mr. Gladstone's speech at Oldham contained what the trade unionists are pleased to designate "erroneous statements as to their objects and principles;" and a meeting of delegates was held, on Tuesday night, at the Bell Inn, Oldham, to take the matter into consideration. Mr. Potter, who occupied the chair, read a letter from Mr. Gladstone, who said:—"In my speech at Oldham I stated that unions of working men were in themselves rather to be commended than otherwise, and that if any objection were to be taken, it must be to the abuse and not the use of such associations. I then objected broadly, for myself, to all rules which tend to limit the freedom of labour, or to produce an artificial equality among workmen, and this mainly on the ground of the injury which they do to the working class. On these and all other points I am very desirous to be corrected and instructed by those better informed than myself, but I could not attend any public meeting for that purpose; while I should be most happy either to receive and consider any written document in answer to what I have said, or to hear any arguments from persons who might be appointed, and freely to converse with them in a friendly spirit, as men who should have a common object in view, under the condition, however, that they would be good enough to select and state those propositions of mine which they might consider to call for amendment." The following resolution was carried:—"That this meeting of trade society delegates form a deputation to Mr. Gladstone, as suggested by that gentleman in his letter read this evening, to defend and explain to him the real principles and objects of trades unionism."

DEATH OF M. ATHANASE COQUEREL.—The death of M. Athanase Coquerel, the brilliant French Protestant minister, is a notable event. For fifty years he filled the ministerial office—at the outset of his career in Holland, and subsequently in his own country. He was born in 1795, and was, consequently, seventy-two years of age. He was connected with England and English literature through his aunt, Mrs. Helena Williams, who undertook the care of his early education. After he became a pastor, in 1816, he was offered an incumbency in the Episcopal Church in Jersey, which he refused because he could not sign the Anglican Confession of Faith. He went to Holland, and for twelve years he ministered and preached in the Calvinistic churches of Utrecht, Amsterdam, and Leyden. He returned to France in 1830 and became a member of the Protestant consistory in 1833. In consequence of the liberal opinions which he put forward he was accused by the more rigid members of the French Protestant Church of heresy. The result was a split amongst the members of the body—M. Coquerel being regarded as the leader of what may be regarded as the liberal Christian section, while M. Guizot is the prominent chief of the traditional orthodox Calvinists. After the Revolution of 1848 M. Coquerel was elected member of the French Assembly for the department of the Seine. His votes and eloquence, which was great, were always at the service of the Republic, but after the coup d'état he retired from politics. M. Coquerel is the author of several works, many of which have been translated into English, German, and Dutch. His son (of the same name) inherits his father's eloquence, his love of literature, and his liberal opinions.

RESTITUTION BY A SHEFFIELD TRADE UNION.—On Monday the Edge-tool Trade Union of Sheffield returned to Mr. David Ward, of the firm of Ward and Payne, edge-tool manufacturers, the sum of £30, which was extorted from them by the union in August, 1866, under the following circumstances:—Messrs. Ward and Payne brought from London a first class maker of graving tools, named Addis, who, having some acquaintance with engraving, was able to make tools better adapted for engraving than any which mere ordinary workman could make. The Edge-tool Union objected to Addis being employed, and refused his offer to pay £15 and join the union. Eventually they fined Ward and Payne £30 for employing the man, and in the then condition of affairs, with rival manufacturers waiting to make their market out of the dispute, the firm paid the money under protest. The matter has remained a rambling grievance ever since, and Mr. Ward, to emancipate himself from the control of the union, has fitted up an American machine for the forging of edge-tools, which will be tested in a few days, and if successful, as it has been in America, he expects that it will almost supersede handwork. The union does not appear to have opposed the construction of the machine, but it is, of course, kept under lock and key. The motive of the union in acknowledging their error and returning just now the money wrongfully taken does not very plainly appear, but we understand that in receiving the £30 Mr. Ward distinctly declined to change his attitude towards the union in any way. The society is in low water now from the effects of the depression in trade and the great number of non-union workmen.

LONDON WATER SUPPLY.

In addition to the numerous schemes already suggested for supplying London with water, another has been suggested by Mr. Bateman, C.E., which is worthy of attention, though there are a great many difficulties in the way of its adoption. That gentleman suggests that no scheme having reference to the water supply is worthy of consideration which would not be calculated to bring in 200,000,000 gallons per day to the metropolis. This quantity should supply the whole, or nearly the whole, of the metropolitan district by gravitation without pumping. The nearest district from which such a quantity of water could be obtained under such conditions is that lying on the flanks of the mountain ranges of Cader Idris and Plynlimmon, in North Wales, and forming the upper basin of the main tributaries of the river Severn. Here, Mr. Bateman suggests, a large fall of rain may be expected, on account of the direction of the mountain chains, the heights of the summits, their proximity to the sea, their geographical position, and their physical peculiarities. Then assuming, by means of various data drawn from other similar districts, what would be the amount of rainfall, Mr. Bateman proceeds to compute the area of drainage-ground required to supply the necessary quantity of water, and he selects two districts, one of 66,000 acres in area, forming the drainage-ground of the rivers Banw and Vyrnwy, which join the Severn about half way between Welshpool and Shrewsbury, and the other district of about equal area, forming the drainage-ground of the upper portion of the river Severn proper. The discharge-risings of the lowest reservoir in each of these districts would be placed at an elevation of about 450 ft. above the level of Trinity high-water mark. The water would be conducted by separate aqueducts of 19 and 21½ miles in length respectively to a point of junction near Martin Mere, a little to the north-east of the town of Montgomery, whence the joint volume of the water would be conducted by a common aqueduct, crossing the river Severn close to the town of Bridgworth, and passing near to Stourbridge, Bromsgrove, Henley-in-Arden, Warwick, Banbury, Buckingham, Aylesbury, Tring, Berkhamstead, and Watford, to the high land near Stanmore, where extensive service-reservoirs must be constructed, which would be at an elevation of at least 250 ft. above Trinity high-water mark. From these reservoirs the water would be delivered to the metropolis at "high pressure," and under the "constant-supply" system. The entire length of aqueducts necessary would be 183 miles, and would be capable of conveying 220,000,000 gallons of water per day. Mr. Bateman observes that the works would be exceedingly simple in their construction, presenting no difficulties of an engineering character, and the total outlay he estimates at a sum of £8,600,000; and when we are told by the same authority that the present water companies have recently expended nearly £4,000,000 sterling in merely extending their works in order to meet the increased demand upon them, it really does appear an astonishing thing and quite incredible to the uninitiated that an outlay of little more than double should be sufficient for carrying out so prodigious an undertaking. He also suggests the advisability of buying up the existing waterworks in London, and in that case £22,000,000 would approximately represent the necessary estimates. With regard to the present condition of the London water supply, it appears that an average daily quantity of about 100,000,000 gallons of water is now required for the 3,000,000 of population. Half this quantity is abstracted from the river Thames, and the other half from the river Lea and from deep wells on the easterly and northerly sides of London. Upon the present gross population of London, therefore, the average supply is about 30 gallons per head per day; and if the increase of the water supply were to keep pace with the increase of population, the daily supply required twenty years hence would be about 150,000,000 gallons. It appears that by the various Acts of Parliament which were passed in 1852, authorising the withdrawal of water from the river Thames, the maximum quantity which the water companies are empowered to take is 100,000,000 gallons per day; and Mr. Bateman assures us that there is no adequate source within the means of any of these companies to which they can resort, and therefore it becomes a matter of urgent necessity that the question should be liberally considered while there is yet time to execute the requisite works for obtaining a more ample supply from other distant sources. He suggests, therefore, that no narrow considerations of parsimonious economy ought to interfere with the execution of any large and comprehensive scheme which would give us for many years an abundant supply; and there is no doubt that the present system of supplying the metropolis with water urgently demands prompt and energetic reform.

STATE OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

The Irish Commissioners of National Education have published, in the appendix which they have issued with their thirty-third report, a paper prepared by Mr. M. Fitzgerald, Inspector of National Schools, on the progress of education in that country. The paper is in defence of the board against charges of inefficiency, based on the statements of the Census Commissioners that the returns for the second week of April, 1861, showed only 30 per cent of the children of the school-going age (five to fifteen inclusive) attending school, and showed 39 per cent of the population of Ireland five years old and upwards unable to read or write. The Inspector, after noticing that agricultural work made the week selected about the worst week in the year for the inquiry, and that a considerable number of schools failed to make returns, proceeds to say he believes that by the number "attending school" in the week the Commissioners meant the average attendance for the week, and this does not at all represent the total number of school-going pupils at that period. It is found in the national schools that the annual average does not much more than represent one third of the total number of children on the rolls and in attendance at some time during the year. The ratio may be set down as 11 to 30. Supposing the same ratio to prevail in other primary schools, the Commissioners' average attendance of 395,294 pupils in 1861, out of 1,334,792 individuals of the school-going age, gives 1,078,074 for the total on the rolls for the year; and this would leave only about 19 per cent of the population of the school-going age "not attending school in 1861," and fully 80 per cent attending in the year with more or less regularity. This is borne out by the experience of persons acquainted with the country; the unanimous testimony is that nearly all the children are "going to school." But this brings the inspector face to face with that which he describes as the great difficulty in the way of primary education in every country where attendance at school is not enforced by law—irregularity of attendance. Few persons, he considers, even those practically engaged in the work of education, know fully the extent of this evil. He says that statistics collected last year reveal a state of things not more surprising than painful in this respect, showing that a very large proportion of the pupils attended school on less than fifty days in the year 1865, or less than one day in the week. As the results had not been made public, he was obliged to fall back upon the Census returns, and these showed that 28½ per cent of the pupils of national schools attended less than forty days in the year ending with March, 1861, and 41 per cent on less than sixty days. Probably 35 per cent may be taken as the number attending less than fifty days. A pupil of the peasant class attending school on less than one day per week could make little progress even in the merest elements of knowledge, and yet, of 638,282 pupils returned as attending national schools in that year, no less than 223,399 were thus irregular. Until this evil can be more or less removed we need not wonder at the large number of persons who grow up in ignorance. Yet the 39 per cent of the population of Ireland five years old and upwards returned as unable to read or write at the date of the Census need not make us despond. The ratio had decreased in the twenty years since 1841 (including seven years of famine), by 11 per cent of males and 16 per cent of females; taking both together, the 53 per cent of wholly ignorant in 1841 was reduced to 39 per cent in 1861. Among those who were of the school-going age in those twenty years the decrease of ignorance far exceeds that ratio. Of every hundred persons aged from eleven to sixteen there were, even in 1851, forty-two unable to read or write, but in 1861 only twenty-six; and there was a decrease of 10 per cent in the number of wholly ignorant between five and ten years of age. It is estimated that, owing to the formerly smaller number of national schools in operation, at least one third, and perhaps one half, of the persons between ten and forty years of age living in 1861 never had the opportunity of entering such a school. It is believed that the National Board, now in the maturity of their system, will be found to have been more successful in the seven years since the Census than in any similar preceding period.

AN IDIOT WORKHOUSE NURSE.—That the poor have occasionally some grounds for the dislike they evince against accepting "indoor" relief for themselves and their children, the following facts will show:—When a mother and child are received into a workhouse the child is separated from the mother and is consigned to the children's ward, where it is tended by a workhouse nurse. The Wigan Coroner has been holding an inquest on the body of an infant nine months old, the illegitimate daughter of Susannah Banister, an inmate of the Wigan workhouse. One Monday Banister took her child to the infant ward to hand it over to the nurse, but remonstrated when she found that it was to be consigned to the care of one Kitty Dawber, an idiot, seventeen years of age. The matron replied that Dawber was the best nurse to be had at the time, and to Dawber the baby was accordingly handed. The idiot forthwith stripped her charge, and, sitting down before the fire, with a bucket of scalding water by her side, plunged the child into it, holding it across her lap, and, taking a rough towel, rubbed it violently, until another of the nurses, a woman paralysed in her right side, named Mary Finch, aged seventy-three, observed, "Dost na see that'r rubbin' all the skin off?" A piece of skin, three inches long, was subsequently found adhering to the towel, and another bit, as large as a crown piece, was picked up from the floor. On the following Wednesday the scalded child died. Besides Kitty Dawber, the idiot, and Mary Finch, the paralytic woman, there were amongst the nurses in the infant ward of the Wigan workhouse, Ann Hart, aged seventy-nine, so weak that she could not carry a child across the ward; Betty Hartley, aged eighty-one; and Alice Welsby, another stout active idiot. The Coroner adjourned the inquest, and directed the idiot Dawber to be taken into custody.

THE FENIANS.

On Monday the five prisoners charged with wilful murder at the outrage at Clerkenwell Prison were re-examined at Bow-street. Some of the evidence taken was of a very important and interesting character. Facts were adduced to show that Burke was aware of something to be attempted in the nature of an explosion, and that he expected it on the preceding day, as, when the prisoners were exercised, he fell out of the ranks at a certain point, took his boot off as if there were a stone in it, and knocked it against the wall. This was just after the clock struck four, and immediately afterwards a white ball was thrown over the wall as though to announce the postponement of the attempt. It further appeared from the evidence of a boy named Holgate that a barrel was brought on that day to the wall just in the same way as that which was exploded the next day. The police have also discovered from whence some, at least, of the explosive material was obtained, but the chain of circumstances in respect to that matter is yet incomplete. It appears that a man ordered 200 lb. of blasting powder on Dec. 4 at Curtis and Harvey's, Lombard-street, which was delivered as requested on the 6th, in four barrels, at a greengrocer's shop kept by a Mrs. Martin, in the neighbourhood of Golden-square. One barrel was left there, and the purchase-money, £3 7s. 6d., paid by a man who called himself Smith. Another man with a truck took the other three barrels and conveyed them elsewhere. A good many surrounding details were narrated, but who Mrs. Martin and Smith are did not transpire; neither was the powder traced further, the counsel for the prosecution at that point asking for another remand, which was granted.

Eleven of the fourteen men arrested at Merthyr Tydvil on the charge of Fenianism were, on Tuesday, again examined in that town. It will be remembered that the remaining three were discharged on a previous occasion, no case having been made out against them. Yesterday another prisoner, named Barrett, was discharged. The rest were committed for trial.

The fourth battalion of the 60th Rifles (seventy strong) arrived at Warwick on Tuesday evening, to do duty at the county goal while the Fenian prisoners remain there.

The Government is prosecuting the *Irishman* newspaper for sedition. The preliminary inquiries before the magistrates have been completed, and the proprietor, Mr. R. Pigott, has been committed for trial. The articles and extracts which the Irish Attorney-General alleges to be "seditious libels" have been selected from eight numbers of the journal, printed at long intervals throughout the year 1867-8, and beginning with Jan. 29, 1867.

It is stated that Lennon, a Fenian now in custody in Dublin, headed a procession lately in New York wearing the uniform in which he deserted from the 9th Lancers. He is branded with the letter "D," and his ingenuity in assuming various disguises is declared by the Dublin police to have been surprisingly fertile.

Revised instructions to the special constables who have been lately sworn in in such numbers all over the country were issued by Colonel Ewart, from the Special Constables' Office, at Wellington Barracks. The document says that the defensive measures now taken must have so far a permanent character that they shall be adapted to last through the winter. And it adds that the best organisation will be that which will afford the regular police prompt assistance when needed, without calling on the specials to undertake regular duty. By these instructions a penalty not exceeding £5 is imposed for each of the following offences in the case of a special constable:—1. For refusing to take the oath when duly required. 2. For neglect to appear when summoned for the purpose of taking the oath. 3. For neglect or refusing to serve as a special constable when called upon, or to obey such lawful orders as are given for the performance of the duties of his office, unless such person proves that he was prevented from complying with the Act by sickness or other sufficient excuse." The official who drew up these rules seems to be unaware that the two first of them do not affect special constables, but persons who decline to become special constables.

TURNING OFF THE "MAYNE."—The reports that have been circulated of the approaching resignation of Sir Richard Mayne are thoroughly well founded. We learn that it is the intention of the Government to form a detective force which shall combine all the advantages or disadvantages of the Continental system. Sir Richard, it is presumed, is unequal to the subtle supervision of the new organisation, and an energetic chief of police will be sought for who shall possess all the qualities and virtues of a Fouché.—*Echoes from the Clubs.*—The *Morning Post* says that a committee is in course of formation in London having for its object the prosecution of Sir Richard Mayne—or, rather, the Commissioners of Police—for connivance at, or negligence in preventing, the explosion at the House of Detention in Clerkenwell. A manifesto from the committee is expected to be addressed to the public in the course of the next fortnight.

THE GAME LAWS.—A good deal of excitement has been caused among the members of the Hexham Farmers' Club in consequence of the resignation of Mr. C. G. Grey, the president, through the following resolution having been adopted at one of its meetings:—"That many farmers suffer a heavy loss from damage to crops by hares and rabbits; that landlords who preserve many hares and rabbits participate in the sins of the poachers by leading them into temptation; that it often happens that poaching leads to greater crimes; and that a considerable sum is expended in keeping poachers in prison, maintaining their families, and also for prosecutions." At the annual meeting of the club, held on Tuesday, after a long and animated discussion, the resolution was rescinded, and one "that, in the opinion of the club, the undue preservation of game was unjust to the occupiers of land and injurious to the community, and ought to be abated," was adopted in its place.

FOURTEEN VOLUNTEER OFFICERS CASHIERED.—Last Saturday fourteen of the officers of the Havock (48th Middlesex) Rifles were summarily cashiered, a proceeding without parallel in the history of the volunteer movement. It appears that for some time past there has been a large amount of dissatisfaction in all ranks of the 48th Middlesex. It is said that its commanding officer (Lieutenant-Colonel G. Cruikshank), from his great age, was incompetent to the duties of that position, and that in consequence the corps, wherever it went, was the subject of ridicule. Deputations from the non-commissioned officers had waited upon him to ask him to resign, and he had promised to do so if they would bear with him awhile. Similar applications were also made by the commissioned officers, but equally without result. The two Majors, Pillow and Saunders, then resigned, and fourteen out of the nineteen remaining officers forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant a memorial through the post, instead of through their commanding officer, calling attention to the case, and in the interests of the regiment asking for an investigation. The Lord Lieutenant forwarded this memorial to the War Office, whereupon an order was at once issued to cashier every one of the fourteen officers who had signed the document. On Saturday evening the Colonel summoned an assembly of all the commissioned officers, in uniform, at the headquarters, Cook's-court, Lincoln's Inn-fields, and then read the condemnation of the officers in question. Captain Smith, although not one of the memorialists, at once gave notice of his resignation, and the corps is now left with but five officers.

A TALE OF DISTRESS IN EAST LONDON.—On Tuesday evening an inquiry was held by Mr. J. Humphreys, Middlesex Coroner, in Bethnal-green, touching the death, from want, of Elizabeth Wright, aged forty years. William Wright, a wretched, scared-looking man, deposed that he was a weaver by trade, but for the last eight months, he had worked in the parish stoneyard, as he could get no other employment. He lived with deceased, his wife, at No. 7, Scott-street, paying 1s. 9d. a week rent. Deceased was ailing; last Saturday he fetched the parish doctor to her. He afterwards went to the surgery, and upon his return he found her dead. The family income for the last eight months was as follows:—For the first five months witness was paid 8d. a day by the parish; for about two months they gave him 10d. a day, or 5s. a week; and for the last three weeks, by a new order, they allowed him to earn 1s. by breaking six bushels of stones a day. He would have broken more to get more halfpence, but they would not let him exceed the six bushels a day. They paid him one half in money, and the other half in bread and tea. If he had applied for extra things for his wife they would have stopped it out of what he earned by stone-breaking, and then he could not have paid his rent and lived. The Coroner said he was sure the parish authorities would not have acted as the witness supposed. The witness, with great earnestness, said that he knew they would. The deceased used sometimes to earn 6d. a week by binding shoes, at 4d. a dozen. Witness had seven grown-up children very badly clothed; they had hardly any bed; they lay almost on the bare boards for eight months past. Other witnesses corroborated the man Wright, and testified to his honesty, sobriety, and industry. Mr. J. Defries, parish surgeon, said that when called in to the deceased he saw that she did not want medicine, but food and comfort. He gave a certificate to have her received into the infirmary, as suffering from bronchitis and destitution, and she agreed to go; but she died from those maladies the same evening. The jury returned a verdict that deceased was found dead from bronchitis, and that her death was accelerated by want of food and by exposure.

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4s. per gallon, is emphatically unequalled for purity and
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Previous to Stocktaking, PETER ROBINSON will clear out all last season's Fancy Silks at prices that are certain to command the immediate attention of Families.
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REVERSIBLE CORDED SILKS, in all the New Colours, 23 1/2 in. 6d., extra Full Robe, 15 yards. 200 Pieces to select from. Patterns free.
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1000 Figured Tarlatans, New Designs, 12s. 9d. the Extra Full Dress.
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ROYAL "KELSO" LINSEY (Registered).
This improved article is less heavy in the make and richer in its colourings than any previously introduced. These dresses are now reduced to 18s. 9d.; former price 25s. 6d. This elegant fabric is also well adapted for early spring.
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500 ODD USEFUL DRESSES, comprising Silk Poplins, Yocco Wool Poplins, Merinos, Scotch Linseys, Gossamer Cloths, &c., from 8s. 6d. to 27s. 6d. Full Dress.
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made up and trimmed in the most correct taste, may be obtained at the most reasonable prices.
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Goods are sent free of charge, for selection, to all parts of England (with draughtsmen, if desired) upon receipt of letter, order, or telegram; and Patterns are sent, with Book of Illustrations, to all parts of the world.
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SUPERIOR BLACK SILKS, by Tappeler, Bonnet, and other celebrated Makers. PETER ROBINSON would invite the especial attention of purchasers to the superior makes and qualities of his BLACK SILKS, and the very reasonable prices at which they are sold. He now supplies good useful Black Silks from 4s. to 70s. the Full Dress, and superior and most enduring qualities from 3s. to 10s. Patterns free.—Address Peter Robinson, 256, Regent-street.

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TWO DRAPERS' STOCKS FOR SALE.
IMPORTANT TO PURCHASERS.
We have bought by Public Tender, from the Creditors, the Stock of MR. ARCHER, PITFOLD-STREET, HOXTON.
Also, the Stock of Mr. Dyer, Fulham-road, Hammersmith, who is retiring from business. These two Stocks will be sold much below the original Cost Price, and in many instances less than one half. We shall offer more than 20,000 yards various kinds of Fancy Dresses, Serres, and Linseys; some cheap lots of Black and Coloured Silks and Suit Velvets, Mantle Cloths, Sealskins, Flannels, Linens, Longcloths, Shawls, &c.
Several thousand yards in Remnants and Odd Lots we shall clear out at nominal prices.
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LADIES' and CHILDREN'S UNDER CLOTHING, &c.—The largest lot, ever offered by any retailer, of beautiful White Skirts, Petticoats, Mantles and Jackets, Underclothing, Children's Frocks and Dresses, Boys' Suits, some portion being slightly out of condition, and will be fitted to our customers at a large reduction in price.
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Dresses for Widows' and Parents' Mourning, from 25s. to 65s.; Dresses for Family and Complimentary Mourning, from 12s. 6d. to 8s. completely made ready for wear; a perfect fit guaranteed. Skirts ready for every degree of Mourning from 12s. 6d. to 10s. included. The newest Designs in Nett, Tulle or Tarlatan Skirts.—HOWITT and COMPANY, Albion House, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, High Holborn.

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8, 240, and 242, Regent-street, W. (Carriage entrance, 27, Argyle-street).
ALI and CO. have respectfully to announce their Annual SALE OF MEN'S and BOYS' CLOTHING, and will be continued till the 1st of March. Extensive alterations and additions to their present stock, some being completely new, are anxious to secure their stock (liable to 4s. 6d. in cost and other circumstances) as much as possible, and have made such prices as will further the object in view, and therefore hope to be favoured with frequent visits during the sale. Periodical reductions will be made as the sale proceeds.—Regent House, 138, 240, and 242, Regent-street; and 27, Argyle-street, W.

LADIES'—The most Elegant Styles and Durable Fabrics in BOYS' ATTIRE, at a saving of 25 per cent.
at N.W. LONDON CLOTHING COMPANY'S WARE-ROOMS, 45 and 46, Shoreditch.

LADIES' VELVETEEN SUITS.
Velveteen Suits, Skirts 60 in. long, 2 1/2 p. Velveteen Short Costume, with petticoats complete, 2 1/2 p. Atlantic Serge Suits, 14 guineas. Patterns free.
HOBBSLEY and CO., 71, Oxford-street.

MRS. C. COLLEY solicits Ladies' attention to her large assortment of Chignons, French Curis, Coffers, Platts, Wigs, Fronts, and every description of Ornamental Hair, all of the newest styles and first quality.
C. Colley, Perfumer, Hairdresser, &c., 23, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.—N.B. Orders by post promptly attended to.

H. WALKER'S NEEDLES (by Authority).
THE QUEEN'S OWN, with large eyes, have patent ridges, to open the cloth; they can be instantly threaded, and are the easiest-sewing needles in the world. H. Walker is the Patentee of the Penelope and Eucrope Crochets, the new patent Tatting-hooks and Rings, &c. Samples for 1s. 1d., 1s. 7d., 2s. 2d., by post of any Dealer.—Queen's Works, Alcester; and 47, Greenham-st., London.

POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA PEAU—JAMES LEWIS'S CONSERVATIVE SOAP (registered), the finest toilet soap for winter use. Sold everywhere in Tablets, 4d. and 6d. each.
Manufacture, 6, Bartlett's-buildings, Holborn, London.

EVENING JAPANESE SILKS.—CHAS. AMOTT and CO., St. Paul's, will SELL, on Monday, 3000 beautiful Evening Silks, Rose, Pink, Mauve, Silver Grey, Blue, and other magnificent colourings, 1s. 3d. 6d. Full Dress; worth 3s. 6d. Patterns post-free.—51 and 52, St. Paul's, London.

VELVETEEN SUITS, 2 1/2 p., equal in appearance to real Lyons Silk Velvet, at 15s.; Velveteen Costumes complete, including Jacket, Petticoat, and Dress, 2 1/2 p. Patterns and Engravings free.
CHAS. AMOTT and CO., 51 and 52, St. Paul's.

REAL SEAL JACKETS, Half Price.
CHAS. AMOTT and COMPANY, St. Paul's, will SELL, during the Week, 150 Magnificent Real Seal Jackets, 7 1/2 p. each; worth 15s. This is a genuine opportunity for anyone wishing to possess the most useful of a first-rate article at a moderate cost.
Chas. Amott and Co., 51 and 52, St. Paul's.

HARROGATE STOCK, GREAT SALE.
Patterns free.
ANNUAL REMOVAL OF STOCK from the Harrogate Branch for immediate Sale, at extraordinarily Low Prices, consisting of Fancy Dresses, Serres, Linseys, Drapery, &c. A special lot of Turkey Poplins, at 5s. 11d. Full Dress and a special lot of Atlantic Serge, at 10s. 9d. Full Dress. Lace and Fancy Goods at merely nominal prices.
GEORGE BURGESS, 137, Oxford-street; and 3, Royal Parade, Harrogate.

Z. SIMPSON and COMPANY are now SELLING the remainder of the undermentioned STOCKS at large discounts, as previously advertised:—
The Stock of a West-End Baby-linen Warehouseman.
The Salvage Stock of a Draper.
2500 Pieces of Plain and Fancy Dress Goods.
1500 Ladies' and Children's Jackets and Mantles.
A Large Parcel Plain and Fancy Silks, from 1s. 11d. to 4s. 11d. per yard. Also, Silk Velvets—Colours, 1s. 11d.; Black, 2s. 11d.; 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d., and 7s. 11d.; the latter worth 11s. 9d.
A Parcel of Ribbons, Gloves, Trimmings, &c. Also a Large Lot of Swiss Fancy Baskets, of first-class manufacture, extraordinarily cheap.
Z. Simpson and Company, 65 (late 45, 49, 53, and 55), Farringdon-street, City.

NEW SPRING SILKS.
IMPORTANT NOTICE.
NICHOLSON and CO., Silkmercers, 59 to 62, St. Paul's-church-yard, have just completed a very extensive purchase of Lyons Silks, Black and Coloured, at very advantageous prices. The following ten advertisements detail the particulars of this very important parcel.
Ladies unable personally to inspect the stock can have 200 patterns, representing £20,000 worth of Silks, sent to them post-free.
NICHOLSON and Co., 59 to 62, St. Paul's-churchyard, London.

£20,000 WORTH NEW SILKS.
Coloured Glacés, 30 shades, from 1s. 11d. per yard. 500 Patterns post-free. At NICHOLSON'S, 59 to 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£20,000 WORTH NEW SILKS.
Checks and Stripes, from 1 guinea a Dress, Reversible. 500 Patterns post-free. At NICHOLSON'S, 59 to 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£20,000 WORTH NEW SILKS.
Moire Antiques, Corded Silks, Châcne and Broché Silks, from 2 guineas. 500 Patterns free. At NICHOLSON'S, 59 to 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£3500 WORTH BLACK SILKS.
Black Glacés, Gros Grains, Drap de Lyon, &c., from 1 1/2 guinea a Dress. 500 Patterns post-free. NICHOLSON'S, 59 to 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£5000 WORTH OF REALLY ELEGANT and useful Lyons SILKS, of last year's designs, at 2s. a yard under original prices. 500 Patterns free. At NICHOLSON'S, 59 to 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

FRENCH CAMBRICS EXTRAORDINARY.
500 Pieces, in varied and tasteful Patterns, all at 8s. 11d. for 10 yards; really worth 15s. Patterns free. NICHOLSON'S, 59 to 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

SLACKS' SILVER ELECTRO-PLATE
Is as good for wear as real silver.
Table Forks (Fiddle Pattern)—Per doz. £1 10 0 and 1 18 0
Desert ditto 1 10 0 1 18 0
Dessert ditto 1 10 0 1 18 0
Tea Spoons 0 12 0 0 18 0
Richard and John Black, 336, Strand, London.

SARL'S ARGENTINE SILVER PLATE.
This beautiful metal, introduced and manufactured solely by SARL and SONS, and which has obtained such great celebrity during the last thirty years, is universally admitted to be the best substitute for solid silver. A choice selection of articles suitable for New-Year's Gifts. Illustrated Books gratis. Address, Sarl and Sons, 45, Cornhill, London.

THE DUTY being REDUCED, HORNIMAN'S TEA is EIGHTEEN PER CENT CHEAPER.
Agents—Confectioners in London; Chemists, &c., in every town. As protection against imitations, genuine packets are signed.
Horniman & Co.

CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Breakfast.
CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Eating.
CHOCOLAT-MENIER, Pure, wholesome, and delicious. Consumption exceeds 5,000,000 lb.

MENIER'S FRENCH CHOCOLATE
Warehouse, 23, Henrietta-st., Strand, London. Sold everywhere.

BREAKFAST-EPPS'S COCOA.
The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. Invigorating and sustaining, with a refined and grateful flavour developed by the special mode of preparation applied, this Cocoa is used as their habitual beverage for breakfast by thousands who never before used Cocoa.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY, DUBLIN EXHIBITION, 1883. This celebrated old Irish Whisky gained the Dublin Prize Medal. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome. Sold in bottles, 3s. 6d. each, at the retail houses in London; by the agents in the principal towns in England; or wholesale, at 6s. Great Windmill-street, London, W.—Observe the red seal, pink label, and branded cork. "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

FOR COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, and NEURALGIA,
DR. J. COLLISBROWNE'S CHLORODYNE IS THE GREAT REMEDY. Sold by all Chemists, 1s. 1/4, 3s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. No other genuine.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.
What Diseases are more fatal in their consequences than neglected Coughs, Colds, Sore Throats, or Lungular Affections? The first and best remedy is KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES. Sold in boxes, 1s. 1/4; 2s. 9d. each.—T. Keating, Chemist, 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London. Sold retail by all Druggists, &c.

COD-LIVER OIL from Newfoundland, first delivery and first imported this season, by THOMAS KEATING, 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, E.C. Sold in bottles; half pint, 1s. 6d.; pint, 2s. 9d.; quart, 5s., Imperial measure.

"A GOOD FAMILY MEDICINE CHEST," with a prudent use, has saved many a life; and yet, we think, the idea might be improved upon and reduced to a more simple form. Take some good compound, such as COCKLE'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS, and we find that the desired end may be obtained without scales and weights, or little mysterious compartments and enchanted bottles with crystal stoppers. Others might be used; but as tested by many thousands of persons, and found to answer their purpose so well, may be set down as the best.—Overyer.

SHILLING PACKET OF FANCY INITIAL NOTE-PAPER and ENVELOPES, consisting of Three Dozen Sheets of Paper of three sizes, and Three Dozen Envelopes of three sizes to match the paper, all stamped with reversed crystals in colour. Any initial letter may be had. Sent free by post for thirteen stamps. PARKINS and GUTTO, 24, 25, 27, and 28, Oxford-street, London, W.

Now ready, 1 vol. 8vo, 10s. 6d.,
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OUR LIFE IN THE HIGHLANDS,
from 1848 to 1861.
To which are prefixed and added extracts from the same Journal giving an account of
EARLIER VISITS TO SCOTLAND,
AND TOURS IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND,
AND
YACHTING EXCURSIONS.
Edited by
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Now ready,
RAPHAEL'S PROPHETIC MESSENGER
for 1868, with Coloured Hieroglyphic, containing the most complete ephemeris extant. Last year Raphael predicted the "siege" and "fall" on the Derby Day and illness of the Princess of Wales. Price 2s. 6d.; or post-free for 3s. 6d.
T. T. LEMARE, 1, Ivy-lane, Paternoster-row, E.C.

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T. T. LEMARE, Ivy-lane, Paternoster-row.

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LET ON HIRE the following PIANOFORTES, for three years; after which, and without any further charge whatever, the pianoforte becomes the property of the hirer: Pianettes, 34 guineas per quarter; Pianos, 3 guineas per quarter; Cottage Pianos, 23 10s. per quarter; Drawing-room Model Cottage, £31s. per quarter; Oblique Grand, 5 guineas per quarter; Cottage Grand, 6 guineas per quarter. These instruments are warranted, and of the best manufacture. Extensive Warehouse, 104 and 105, BISHOPSGATE-STREET WITHIN, E.C.
Jury award, International Exhibition, 1864; Honourable Mention for good and cheap Pianos to Moore and Moore.

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Easy Terms, at 2 1/2, 3, and 4 guineas per quarter. Ware-rooms, 104 and 105, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.

MOORE and MOORE extend their Three-years' System of Hire to Purchase to all parts of the United Kingdom, carriage-free.—104 and 105, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

PIANOS Let on Hire for any Period OR THREE YEARS' SYSTEM OF PURCHASE.
Largest assortment in London, of every description and price. PEACHEY, Maker, 73 and 75, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C. ESTABLISHED 1828.

BUTLER'S MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.
Cornets, Saxhorns, Drums, Flutes, Clarinets, Flageolates, Conchettas, Harmoniums, &c., in use in all parts of the Kingdom, and colonies, giving universal satisfaction. Butler's Artist Model, the easiest Cornet yet produced, with double water-key, in case, £6 6s.—Haymarket, London. Prices, with drawings, post-free.

THE ZOETROPE, or Wheel of Life.—How to make this marvellous American Toy, with five slips of Figures, and Full Instructions, post-free for 14 stamps.
H. G. CLARKE and CO., 1, Garrick-street, Covent-garden.

SIX POUNDS PER WEEK WHILE LADY BY INJURY,
£1000 in case of DEATH caused by Accident of Any Kind, may be secured by an Annual payment of from £3 to £5 5s. to the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,
64, Cornhill, and 10, Regent-street.
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ALPACA HEADS OF FAMILIES
POMATUM, will find this one of the nicest and most economical Pomades ever introduced.
PIESSE and LUBIN, Laboratory, 2, New Bond-street, London.

FRAGRANT SOAP.—The celebrated UNITED SERVICE TABLET is famed for its delightful fragrance and beneficial effect on the skin. Manufactured by J. C. and J. FIELD, Patentees of the Self-Acting Candles. Sold by Chemists, Oil and Italian Warehousemen, and others. Use no other. See name on each tablet.

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DENTISTRY: A PAINLESS SYSTEM.
By Messrs. GABRIEL, Diploma, 1815.
London: 64, Ludgate-hill, City; and 56, Harley-street, W. Liverpool: 134, Duke-street. Brighton: 35, North-street.

CANDLES.—A Hint to Purchasers.—Do not make sure that you know what price you are paying per pound for your candles until you have stripped them and put them in the scale. Some candles are right weight without the wrappers, some with moderately thick wrappers, some with very thick wrappers, and some are not nearly right weight with wrappers however thick. Price's "Gold Medal Palmatine," "Sherwood Palmatine," "Belmont Sperm," and "Belmont Wax," "Best," "No. 2," "No. 3," and "Battersea Composites," "Price's Palmatine," and "Belmontine," and all the other candles of PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE COMPANY (Limited), are full weight without the wrappers.

CANDLES, GLYCERINE, and SO-P.—A
Gold Medal was awarded at the Paris Exhibition to Price's Patent Candle Company Limited, for "Candles, Glycerine, and Soap"—the only one by any British exhibitor for these three things combined. The chief Candles of the Company are their "SHEPHERD'S" and "PRICE'S" PATENT. For those who must have the extreme transparency of pure Paraffin, their GOLD MEDAL PALMATINE and SHEPHERD'S PATENT PALMATINE for those who require only perfect burning without caring for transparency; and their "HARSHEN" Candles, hard, and of small diameter to avoid the dripping of grease when carried. Their new toilet soap, PRICE'S SOLIDIFIED GLYCERINE contains half its weight of their distilled Glycerine, and should be the one toilet soap in use, especially in winter, because of its admirable effect in preventing chapping of the hands and face. There ought also to be in every house one of the sealed bottles of their patent distilled Glycerine, known everywhere as PRICE'S GLYCERINE, two or three drops of which, mixed with three or four times as much water, will in a day or two remove chapping and roughness of skin, whether of adults or children; and, when this is effected, a single drop of the undiluted Glycerine applied once a day will prevent the recurrence of the chapping and roughness. Insist on having "Price's Glycerine." The Company's own sealed bottles, quantities of cheap, pure Glycerine being now sold in the shops, because of the low rate at which the dealers can buy it in comparison with Price's. All the good medical authorities, abroad as well as at home, order PRICE'S as the one only Glycerine to be used.

PRICE'S NEW PATENT NIGHT LIGHTS, for burning in the wide places, are believed to be the very best Night Lights made. PRICE'S CHILD'S NIGHT LIGHTS are known everywhere, and are excellent for burning without a glass.

WEAKNESS.—The finest TONIC is
WATERS'S QUININE WINE, unrivalled as a stomachic stimulant. Sold by Grocers, Oilmen, Confectioners, &c., at 30s. per dozen. WATERS and WILLIAMS, the Original Makers, 7, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, London.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP,
for Children Cutting Teeth, has gained a greater reputation in America during the last fifteen years than any remedy of the kind ever known. It is pleasant to take, and safe in all cases; it soothes the child and gives it rest; it relieves griping in the bowels or wind in the stomach, and cures dysentery or diarrhoea, whether arising from cold or other causes; it softens the gums, and allays all irritation. The mother should be without it. Full directions on each bottle. Price 1s. 1/4. Sold by all Chemists in the Kingdom.—London Depot, 205, High Holborn.

GOUT or RHEUMATISM is quickly
Relieved and Cured in a few days by that celebrated Medicine BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATIC PILLS.
Sold by all Medicine Vendors, at 1s. 1/4, and 2s. 9d. per box, obtained through any Chemist.

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